HUNDREDS TO MARCH IN "COAL PARADE" TO COUNCIL ON MONDAY

Thousands Have Signed Petitions Circulated by Labor.

300 UNION MEN CALLED

Citizens Invited To Meet at Market Square For "Invasion."

The trades and labor council will send a big deputation to the council on Monday evening to demand a municipal coal yard.

President Joseph Dean has not definite information as to the exact number, but he states emphatically that there will be a big crowd. Thousands are said to have signed the petition to be presented, which reads as follows:

"We, the undersigned ratepayers and citizens of London, do hereby petition your honorable body to utilize the power invested by the Government to provide for and make the necessary arrangements for a municipal coal yard for coal to be supplied to the citizens at the earliest possible date."

"We are going to show the aldermen that we are in earnest about this thing," he declared. "It is time now for action, and we want something done. We have had enough talk. Now we want coal."

Sergt.-at-Arms Harry Merritt is worried about the large deputation, and wants to know where he will put them all.

It is estimated that fully 300 workingmen will demand the council to establish a coal yard. Citizens interested and union men are asked to gather at the market square at 7:30 o'clock.

A number of jobbers have been asked to quote prices to the board of control, but to date no prices have been received.

GUNNER AUBREY LEIGH AMONG THE WOUNDED

Lieut. Fred Macfie, Who Enlisted in West, Also in Casualty Unit.

Gunner Aubrey Leigh is among the latest of Londoners to appear in the casualty list as wounded, according to a message received by his father, W. R. Leigh, 60 Elmwood avenue, yesterday morning. The message contained the information that he had been wounded in the chest, and that he was in a hospital at Etaples, France, and, as yet, no reply has been received to the cable sent by Mr. Leigh for further particulars. Gunner Leigh left here in October last with a draft from a Western Ontario battery, and has been in France attached to a battery which is largely composed of London men, since the middle of January. Before his enlistment, he was employed on the staff of Edward Adams & Co.

WOMAN BELIEVED TO BE RESIDENT OF CHATHAM

Chatham Friends Identify Her as Mrs. Gertie Freeman.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

Chatham, May 5.—The body of the colored girl who died in a London hospital is presumably that of Gertrude Freeman, wife of Herbert Freeman, formerly of this city, who is said to have left the city, according to statements by local people to The Advertiser correspondent, who gave the first information of her death to friends.

A colored woman of that name is known to have left Chatham recently for London. Mrs. Freeman came from the United States some time ago and worked in the city. She married Herbert Freeman, who is now believed to be in the United States. As far as is known she has no relatives here.

Mrs. Freeman died Friday in Victoria Hospital, her baby, a few hours old, having died the day before. Her body lies at an undertaker's rooms, and will be held at least 48 hours before being given to the medical school. It is believed that relatives or friends in Chatham will arrange for burial.

$1,400 IN PRIZES TO ENCOURAGE FARMERS

The directors of the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, have notified the provincial department of agriculture that $1,400 has been set aside for special prizes in a junior farmer's judging competition, to be competed for by farmers' sons under 26 years of age and not graduates of an agricultural college.

Sixteen cash prizes ranging from $20 to $5 will be given for each class of heavy horses, beef and dairy cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, fruit and vegetables.

Secretary A. M. Hunt of the Western Fair stated today that although no special grant would be made by the fair board towards encouraging a deeper interest among the boys in farming, a number of firms had come forward and donated prizes for boys' judging competitions to be held at the fall exhibition, practically every branch of farming being included in the competition.

LISTEN TO THIS! SAYS CORNS LIFT RIGHT OUT NOW

You reckless men and women who are pestered with corns and who have at least once a week invited an awful death from lockjaw or blood-poison are now told by a Cincinnati authority to use a drug called freezone, which the moment a few drops are applied to any corn, the soreness is relieved and soon the entire corn, root and all, lifts out with the fingers.

It is a sticky ether compound which dries the moment it is applied and simply shrivels the corn without inflaming or even irritating the surrounding tissue or skin. It is claimed that a quarter of an ounce of freezone will cost very little at any of the drug stores, but is sufficient to rid one's feet of every hard soft corn or callous.

You are further warned that cutting a corn is a suicidal habit.

Perfect Developing

of your Films is only part of the process necessary to produce the results you are looking for.

"Perfect Pictures"

are what you demand—and it's what you get with every roll that you bring or mail to

Cairncross' the Chemists

Dependable Druggists.

216 DUNDAS ST. PHONE 880

Cut Prices Every Day.

LOCAL NEWS

Rev. R. W. Norwood will address the Women's Canadian Club this afternoon in the Normal School.

MR. GEGGIE TO SPEAK.—New St. James' Presbyterian Church will hold anniversary services Sunday. Rev. J. Logan Geggie will preach at both services.

AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETS—The high school auditing committee of the county council was in session at the county buildings Friday, completing the work on some accounts.

CITY MISSION SERVICE. — City Mission services tomorrow at 7 p.m will be featured with special singing Rev. Wm. Matheson will speak on the subject, "Spiritual Madness."

RALLY OF BEEKEEPERS.—A rally of the Middlesex beekeepers will be held on the afternoon of June 6 at the Lambeth bee and poultry yards owned by D. Anguish & Sons. Morley Pettit, provincial apiarist, will be present, and a bee demonstration will be given.

ALUMNAE MEETS MONDAY.—The St. Joseph Hospital Alumnae of Nurses will hold their annual meeting at the Nurses' Home of that institution on Monday, May 7th at 8 o'clock. A large attendance is expected, as several matters of business are to be brought up at the meeting.

SUES RAILWAY.—Claiming that a passing locomotive set fire to a timber tract on the 3rd concession of Ekfrid Township, Augustus Helm, of that township has entered action in the county court against the Canadian Pacific Railway seeking to recover unstated damages as a result of the fire.

DR. McCRAE'S SUBJECTS.—Dr. McCrae will take both services on Sunday at the Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church. The morning subject will be "Dead, Yet Speaking." In the evening Dr. McCrae will give the second of the series of sermons on "Great Messages for the Present Hour," subject, "The War and Modern Spiritualism."

SERVICE FOR CHILDREN.—A special children's service will be conducted in First Presbyterian Church at 11 o'clock Sunday morning. The pupils will gather in the schoolroom and march into the auditorium for the service, which will comprise special music and an object sermon on "The Arch of Christian Character."

K. O. S. CLASS OFFICERS.—The K. O. S. Boys' Club of the First Methodist Sunday School met in their classroom Friday evening and the following officers were elected: President, James Gibson; treasurer, Laurence Langford; secretary, Robert Boyd; reporter, Harley Wilson; librarian, Carmen Lindsay; captain of ball team, Homer Frizell.

REGRET HIS DEATH.—Pte. Harold J. Welse, reported dead of wounds in the recent fighting, was one of seven members of the Church of St. John the Evangelist who enlisted here. He was a member of the choir, and most popular. At the regular choir practice last evening, a resolution of sympathy was unanimously passed, and will be sent to his mother in Strathroy.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY.—The Centennial Methodist Sunday School will hold anniversary services on Sunday, May 13, when Rev. E. W. Halpenny, B.D., Toronto, general secretary of the Ontario Sunday School Association, will preach at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and give an address to the school at 3 p.m. The annual entertainment will be held on Tuesday, May 15.

SUNDAY APPOINTMENTS.—Huron College appointments for Sunday are: Norwich, Rev. Professor Wright, M.A.; Bayfield, J. Chapman; St. John the Evangelist, F. G. Hardy; St. John's (London Township), W. D. Davis; Chelsea Green, A. Shaw; Epiphany, L. P. Hagger; Atwood, O. Monsley; Courtright, W. Hendry; Lucan, A. S. Mitchell; Aged People's Home, C. C. Bruton.

NO ACTION ON PAVING. — The London Street Railway is not making much progress with the paving construction work, the city paving gangs being held up. The company has not a heavy program to carry out, but there does not seem to be much desire on its part to carry out what is laid down for it. The matter will probably be discussed at the council meeting on Monday evening.

THIRTY DAYS TO GIVE UP CHILD.—As the judgment of Mr. Justice Masten, in the case of William Link, 89 Mamelon street, vs. Miss Margaret Thompson, 390 Victoria street, allows some days in which the latter is permitted to deliver over possession of Grace Jean Link to the father, counsel for Miss Thompson has not yet received any instructions as to future action. Whether the case will be appealed to the supreme court of Canada has not yet been decided.

A LIVELY PROGRAM.—The city council will meet on Monday evening, with a long string of business to dispose of. The board of health embroglio will take up quite a portion of the time, as there will be a lively debate on the question. The trades and labor council will send a big deputation to discuss a municipal coal yard. There are other contentious subjects, and altogether the session promises to be lively and full of joy or jawing as the case may be.

ALFRED ONN INJURED.—Alfred Onn, son of Fred Onn, fish dealer, was badly bruised about the head late Thursday, when the delivery rig he was driving was struck by a motor car approaching from the rear as he was driving west on Elmwood avenue. The rig was partly demolished, and Mr. Onn was thrown on the pavement, sustaining several cuts about the head. He was able to be at his work again yesterday. The occupants of the car had a narrow escape, the machine missing a telephone pole by a few inches. The headlights and fender were damaged in the collision with the fish wagon.

THE BO'SN'S BRIDE.—Dozens of people who were turned away, unable to gain admittance, when the tuneful and amusing operetta, "The Bo'sn's Bride," was presented last February under the direction of Charles E. Percy, have secured reserved section seats betimes, to make sure of a good place next Tuesday evening in the Masonic Temple, when a second performance will be given for the benefit of the Woman's Music Club fund for the Byron Sanatorium for Tuberculous Soldiers. Sixty artists are included in the cast, the following having leading roles: Mrs. Dochstader, "Kitty Adair"; Misses Ulah B. Kennedy, Bessie Hardie, and A. MacDonald, and W. Rawson, who plays the part of the sailor hero, and H. J. Clarke, S. Chadwick and E. H. Nugent. On this occasion, the presentation will be enhanced by the accompaniment of the London String Orchestra.

CAPT. KENNY TO SPEAK.—An especially fine program has been arranged for the Majestic Sunday concert under the auspices of the Overseas Chapter, I.O.D.E. E. T. Essery, K.C., will preside and the speaker of the occasion will be Capt. Kenny, of headquarters staff, Ottawa. In addition numbers will be given by Miss Georgia Newbury, elocutionist, Miss Cora Bronnan, child violinist, solos by Miss Myrtle Hicks and Pte. Walter Neal, and selections by Lombardo Bros. Orchestra. As usual, the silver collection is for the soldiers' comfort fund. In the past month, the Overseas Chapter has made a financial record by raising something like $700 through the booths at the "Oriental Whirl," and the Pure Food Show, concerts, etc.

CONCERT FOR SOLDIERS. — Convalescent soldiers at the Central Military Hospital last night enjoyed another of the series of concerts which was arranged for their benefit this winter. The entertainment was under the direction of Mrs. Nattrass. Vocal solos were given by Miss Prudence Hayes, Miss Emma Pearson, Miss Cora St. Clair and Miss Dorothy Pearson. Instrumental selections by Miss McAlpine and Miss Kelly were much enjoyed. Features of the evening were a number of Scotch and Irish dances by Miss Dorothy Munro. Her presentation of the butterfly dance was also much enjoyed. Master Sam Munro made a hit in a number of Harry Lauder selections. The accompanists were Mrs. Nattrass, Miss English and Miss Dorothy Pearson. Refreshments were served at the conclusion of the entertainment.

RAPID FIRE ORATOR BRINGS TEARS AND SMILES BY APPEAL

Two Old Men Respond To Enlistment Appeal.

PUT SAND IN SPINES

Instead of Jelly by Operation —Women Enliven Open Air Meeting.

"I would rather see my boy buried in the mud of Flanders, than to have him walking around here in civies" declared Sergt. Harry Edwards of the 7th C. D. F. Regiment, addressing the Saturday crowd on the market square shortly before noon today.

"I know it is a great tug at the heart strings of any mother to let her son go," he added, "but my boys are over there, and my brother, and I am not asking you to do anything that I have not done myself. It's hard to cut the home ties, and to get away from mother's apron strings, and to do a man's job.

"You see men walking about the streets, and enjoying the comforts of living, while the men at the front are crying for men, M-E-N, real men, and if the appeal does not touch your heart, if it does not reach you, then God help you. There is absolutely no excuse for any man who is eligible to be walking around in this city today, while the cry is for men."

Smiles Through Tears.

From the pathetic side of the question the speaker frequently swung his hearers around to the ridiculous side, and soldiers' wives who were wiping their eyes with their handkerchiefs were forced to smile through their tears.

"You couldn't convince me that all the young men in this city are spineless, and that they haven't a drop of red blood in their veins," he declared. "If that is so, we want to have a surgical opertion performed on them, and draw out the jelly from their spines, and put some sand in.

"Some selfish wives say that they can't spare their husbands, and selfish mothers claim that they can't spare their sons. 'We can't afford to live if my husband goes over there,' they say. Spend a little less money on fancy hats and stylish clothes, and you can afford to let them go," he added.

Women in Argument.

At this point a small discussion began between two women in the crowd. "You aint got none o' yours over there, or you wouldn't talk like that," said one.

"I have, too, just as well as you," answered the other.

"Well, you mind your own business," said No. 1.

"I am," No. 2 replied.

"Don't you interrupt me," said No. 1. Efforts were made by friends of both to stop the debate, but No. 1 persisted, so No. 2 replied, "I'll hand you over if you don't stop."

"I won't keep my tongue between my teeth for the likes o' you," came back No. 1, shaking her fist in the face of No. 2, and Sergt. Edwards broke in with, "I'll have to get that woman up here to make recruiting speeches if she don't soon stop," which brought a laugh from the crowd, the belligerents laughed too, and peace was restored.

No "Flat Heads" Wanted.

"We are asking for men today to come forward and defend our homes here in Canada, to join the Canadian Defence Force," continued the speaker "and we also want men to fill up the Overseas Company for drafts to the 1st and 18th Battalions. If you have flat feet it doesn't matter, as long as your head isn't flat, for you can join the Forestry Company. Come up here and give me your hand. Don't say, 'I can't go because of my heart.' I know that. There's a whole lot of men who give that reason, because they haven't got any heart," he added.

The examining physician, Dr. Kingmill, had told him that he was unfit and could not go, adding, "You look fine in uniform, but you look like hell out of it," and Sergt. Edward's message to the young men was something the same, "You would look fine in khaki, but you look like hell out of it."

Old Man Comes to Front.

In response to his passionate appeal for men, for home defence, one elderly man came forward. "Come on, boys, here's the first one. God bless him," he shouted, and another elderly man came forward. No men were obtained for the Overseas Company. Both the men were bald-headed and grey-haired.

Previous to his address Sergt. Rawlings made an appeal for men telling of his experiences at the front to bear out his statements that men were needed.

Sergt. Edwards spoke again to a large crowd at the corner of Park avenue and Dundas street about 3 o'clock today.

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CITY GROCERS

for the winning of the war as the raising of the army. Control should undoubtedly be exercised so far as price and distribution of the staples are concerned. The high prices have had one advantage, they have taught the people the necessity for economy. For one thing, I don't think it is right to handle and push the sale of luxuries in war time and get people to buy them who really cannot afford them. If the housewives would get together and form a league to talk over these matters I believe it would do a great deal in the way of promoting economy in the use of foodstuffs."

As in the House of Commons a few days ago, the question before grocers and bakers is "on the flour" just at the moment, owing to the further advance in price.

Absolutely Necessary.

T. A. Rowat is of the opinion that "a lot of gambling" can be held accountable for the advance in flour prices, and that Government regulation of prices and distribution is an absolute necessity to prevent injustice through food speculation. Flour, he stated, costs the consumer at the present rates $7.50 a hundredweight for Ontario wheat flour and $8 for Manitoba.

How many loaves of bread can be made from a hundredweight of flour? F. E. Parnell, an authority on the subject, stated to the reporter: "We estimate that a bag of flour, 97 pounds net, will make eighty-eight 24-ounce standard-weight loaves. That means, 27 ounces in the dough; we allow 3 ounces for shrinkage."

Regarding the advance in the price of flour, C. J. Leach, confectioner, said today:

"I attribute the big advance in price of flour to two causes. In the first place, so much is being shipped overseas. For example, the whole output of one of the largest milling companies in the country is being taken for this purpose. On the other hand, with so many men out of the country on overseas service, less is consumed in the country. Shipping facilities have something to do with the shortage. I recently had a letter from a man in the West telling me that there was lots of wheat in the West, but that it was hard to dispose of it owing to transportation difficulties.

Fine Chance for Crooks.

"Another important factor in the advance of price of flour, as well as other staples, is the gambling in the market, and the holding of stores for advance in price. Never before, as long as I can remember, has there been such opportunity for the unscrupulous person with capital to make money by buying up and putting supplies in storage.

"Food dictatorship would be a splendid thing to regulate prices and to do away with gambling and prevent unjust storage. Action on the part of the Government is the only means for effectively coping with the situation."

135TH MEMBER IS KILLED AT VIMY FIGHT

Advertiser Illustrations.

PTE. G. G. BURDEN, formerly resided with his sister, Mrs. D. Lewis, 3 Sycamore street. He was born in Stratford 25 years ago and had lived in London ten years, working at his trade as cigarmaker.

NURSE'S DEATH WAS PURELY ACCIDENTAL

Further details in regard to the death of Miss Vera Robb, who was found dead at the home of Mrs. E. Causland of Woodstock, a patient she had been nursing, indicate that death was purely accidental. When found by a maid in the home a chloroform-soaked handkerchief found over her face, used, it was apparent, as a narcotic. Suffering from insomnia, Miss Robb placed the handkerchief, soaked in the anesthetic, over her face to induce sleep. It is thought that a weakened heart, due to overwork, may have been fatal when she inhaled the fumes which under ordinary circumstances would not have proved serious. There is no reason to think that she contemplated suicide, as the amount used she knew would not have been sufficient to have caused death, except where the heart action was bad. She left here two months ago following her graduation at Victoria Hospital. Her home was at Portage la Prairie.

DEATHS AND FUNERALS

MRS. C. MUNRO DEAD.

Mrs. Christina Munro, a resident of Westminster Township until four years ago, died at her residence, 3 Chester street, on Thursday. She is survived by her husband, John Munro, a daughter, Mrs. Thomas Beattie, Westminster, and five sons, Archibald, of Glanworth; John V., city; Dr. George, Smithville; Kenneth, Westminster, and Edward, Saskatoon.

The funeral will be held on Sunday to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. The services will be conducted by Rev. Dr. D. L. McCrae, assisted by the Rev. J. E. Holmes.

FUNERAL OF W. H. BERRY.

The funeral of William Henry Berry, who died in Detroit on Monday, was held Friday from the undertaking parlors of Smith & Hunter. The remains arrived from Detroit Thursday.

Tokens of the esteem in which he was held by his associates in Detroit were sent in the form of numerous floral offerings. These included a floral cross bearing the words "Faithful Unto Death," from the rector and vestry of St. Matthew's Church; a spray from the Willing Workers and numerous wreaths and other designs from friends. A wreath was sent by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Taylor and family, of Montreal.

The funeral service, which was largely attended, was conducted by the Rev. H. F. Logan of the B. M. E. Church. Interment took place at Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

Thhe pallbearers were: W. J. Berry, Henry Mackey, Hodge Duncan, Paul Lewis, Frank Tryor and W. R. Taylor.

BLANCHE REISLING DIES.

H. B. Archer, this city, received word today from Caldwell, Ohio, announcing the death there of Miss Blanche, the 15-year-old daughter of Dr. F. C. Reisling, formerly manager of the London baseball team. Her death occurred on April 21. The family was well known here, and the young lady was the eldest of three girls. When "Doc" Reisling was manager of the club, Mrs. Reisling and the girls joined him for the summer months. They resided at the corner of Colborne and Piccadilly streets. A number of Londoners have sent messages of sympathy to Dr. and Mrs. Reisling.

DROPS DEAD AT CHICAGO.

J. F. Pratt, prominent builder and contractor of Chicago, and well known here, dropped dead on Thursday while out walking in the business district of Chicago. He was a brother of C. E. L. Pratt, of Hyman street and was born in this city. He had lived in Chicago for over 20 years. His wife survives him and another brother, Charles, resident here. Alex. Tytler of Richmond street and Mrs. Horsman of Montreal are sisters.

The funeral will be held here on Monday to Mount Pleasant Cemetery. It is likely that the services will be conducted by Rev. Dr. C. R. Flanders.

FUNERAL OF D. PENWARDEN.

The funeral of David Penwarden, a well-known resident of East London, who died on Thursday, was held this afternoon from his late residence, 716 Grey street, to Woodland Cemetery. The services were conducted under the auspices of the Woodmen of the World by Rev. A. A. Bice.

Mr. Penwarden had been a resident of the city for 47 years, coming here from England. He was a member of Grove Camp No. 2, of the Woodmen of the World. His wife, Mrs. Hannah Penwarden, four sons and four daughters, survive him. William and Peter Penwarden reside here, and John is with the Canadian forces in France. Robert resides at Edmonton. The daughters are Miss Evan and Effie Penwarden of London; Mrs. R. M. Bright of Windsor, and Mrs. A. Campbell of St. Thomas. Mrs. H. Hoskin, city, and Mrs. P. Boughner of Orwell are sisters.

DEATH OF MRS. BRIGLIA.

Mrs. Ann Briglia, for 21 years a resident of this city, died at her residence, 126 Fullarton street, Friday, after an illness of some months. Mrs. Briglia was born in Italy, 61 years ago. Her husband, Anthony Briglia, predeceased her by three years but she is survived by three sons, Guy, Pasquale and Frank of this city, and four daughters, Mrs. Petrone, Denver; Mrs. Deluca and Mrs. Ernest Cortese, city; and Miss Minnie at home. The funeral will be held on Monday at 8:30, Requiem high mass will be sung in St. Peter's Cathedral and interment will take place in St. Peter's Cemetery.

FUNERAL OF W. H. WELSH.

Funeral services for William Henry Welsh, who died here on Wednesday, were conducted at the City Mission last night by Evangelist William Matheson. The funeral was held today to the G. T. R. station. From there the remains were forwarded to Centralia, where interment will take place this afternoon.

BURIED AT WOODLAND.

Henry John Edwards, who died on Friday, was buried this afternoon at Woodland Cemetery. The funeral services were conducted at his late home, 41 Wreay street, by Rev. G. L. Pearson.

FUNERAL AT HYDE PARK.

The funeral of John Armstrong, who died last Saturday, was held from his late residence on the 6th concession of London Township Friday. The services were conducted by Rev. A. B. Irwin of Hyde Park, and interment took place in Hyde Park Cemetery.

NEPHEW AND BROTHER SHARE IN HIS ESTATE

Will of J. C. Trebilcock Disposes of $30,000 Holdings.

The will of J. C. Trebilcock, of this city, has been filed for probate. The estate, which is valued at $30,000, consisting of 233-235 Dundas street, and some personal property, is divided equally between his nephew, Carlyle Trebilcock, and Alfred Edward Trebilcock, his brother, residing in Toronto. Some small bequests were made to other relatives.

Mr. Trebilcock was for many years a leading grocer on Dundas street, but had lived retired for some years.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE CONVICTION IS DELAYED

Arguments in Doctors' Cases Will Be Heard in Two Weeks.

J. M. McEvoy, representing three local physicians who were convicted in police court some weeks ago on charges of having furnished prescriptions to persons for the purpose of obtaining liquor by evasion, moved before Mr. Justice Latchford, at the weekly sitting of the high court of Ontario at the court house today, to have all the convictions quashed.

By consent, the matter was allowed to stand for two weeks, when the motions will be argued. The grounds for quashing these convictions will be the same as those taken in the case of the first physician whose conviction was quashed by Mr. Justice Middleton. Since then the fine of $200 and costs imposed by Mayor Stevenson and Henry Macklin, J.P., has been refunded to the doctor.

THE ENEMY'S STATEMENT.

Berlin, May 5.—Via London, 5:42 p.m.—French troops penetrated German positions east of Neuville yesterday, but were subsequently driven out, the war office announced today. The Germans captured 500 French. The number of British prisoners, the statement says, has been increased to 1,225.

On the Aisne front the artillery fighting continues with a tremendous expenditure of ammunition.

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BILLY SUNDAY

Moses' mother live?' And Jesus will call one of the angels and say, 'Go page Moses' mother, and, 'when you find her, tell her Billy Sunday is here and wants to see her.' And then I'm going to ask her how much old Pharoah paid her that time for taking care of her own son. I've got an awful curiosity to know all about that."

Trail-Hitters Amaze Cobb.

In fine and in brief, it was one of those regular sermons which Billy Sunday preaches. But when he was done and the converts and the near-converts began to tread the sawdusty path to salvation, there was a sight worth any man's while to watch it. More than eight hundred hit the trail that night, it was the first time I had ever witnessed the trail-hitting spectacle. I wouldn't have missed it for a good deal.

In more respects than one—yes in a dozen respects—it was a noteworthy phenomenon. It was wonderful to see the concrete evidence of one's manpower, and he neither a learned nor a good orator, no sway a multitude and make so many of its individual atoms do his bidding. It was wonderful to see that, although he had been exhorting at top-speed for more than an hour then, and had preached another long sermon in the afternoon, he still had enough enthusiasm and strength to clasp each hand of the hundreds of hands outstretched to him and to wish the owner of each separate hand God-speed in the new life he or she, by this sign, pledged himself or herself to follow ever after.

But such duties as these have been part of the daily job of all our successful evangelists, I suppose. And so to me the most wonderful thing of all about it was the working of the Billy Sunday efficiency System, the manifestation of the perfection of the Billy Sunday method by which, without confusion, without visible strain, without a hitch or a balk, those forward-pouring streams of penitents were handled, guided and controlled. The men who directed the efforts of the German war lord have nothing on the members of this man's personal staff when it comes to knowing how. I know of cut one exhibition of concerted intelligence which may be compared with it, and that is the fashion after which the crews handle the show trains and put up the big top when the circus comes to town.

The revivalist has finished his talk with one of those characteristic prayers of his, directed toward the judgment seat up high, in a conversational tone which only would be used by one who felt himself to be thoroughly in the confidence of, and on the basis of a thorough acquaintanceship with the Almighty. It was more than friendly, that prayer was; it had almost the tone of familiarity in it. Dripping wet with sweat, and with his overworked voice worn down to a reedy whine, he finished the petition and gave the invitation to the congregation. Then, as he tripped up the trap door at the edge of the platform, and with the agility of an acrobat jumped down into a niche below to greet those who might respond, I took note of the ushers forming a human aisle in the space beneath him. I took note likewise of perhaps a dozen of his squad of trained workers, who, captained by young George Sunday, the evangelist's son, and with Homer Rodeheaver standing high above, like a field marshal, to oversee their labors, now filed down into the pits and took their ordained stations at suitable intervals.

Hesitate at First.

For perhaps half a minute longer there was no general movement anywhere to be seen in the crowd, only their bodies twisted and rustled nervously as ripened wheat in a wheat field is moved by a sudden summer breeze. Human beings in the mass being much like sheep, these people were waiting, like sheep, for someone to start the procession; then they would be prepared to follow readily enough. Waving his arms to and fro, Rodeheaver repeated in different words the summons which his chief had just sounded:

"Come on," he called, "come on, now. Come on, you who want to give your souls to Christ and accept him as your personal Saviour. Come on, now!"

The great choir at the back of the building swung into a rousing gospel hymn. The component stalks of the human wheat field all swayed forward.

As if obeying a command, four young chaps, wearing the blousy uniforms of apprentices in the United States navy, rose up from a front bench where they sat, and with their faces all serious advanced to the scarp where Billy Sunday was balanced. He God-blessed them most heartily, and, bending forward, slapped them with hearty smacks on their ultramarine blue shoulders. Behind them, coming next, was a little boy not more than 8 or 9 years old, with a shining, proud, shamed little round face above a broad white linen collar, and behind the boy an old woman who walked with a limp and used a cane. Now all over the building forms were rising up and shoving out into the open. The choristers uplifted their voices, as singers inspired, until the sonorous refrain of the chorus roared, like white-caps beating upon a shingly beach. The trail-hitters were on their way.

Trail-Hitters Well Handled.

Left to themselves, those who pressed to the front, streaming every available passage and every bench-lined alleyway toward a common centre, would have mixed together in confusion; they would have milled about like cattle in a pen. But they were not left to their own devices. Trust the Billy Sunday organization, schooled by years of experience, to look out for that. Directly beneath the wooden ramp wherein their chief was perched, seven men, all wearing badges to show wherefrom they derived their authority, were lined up in a formation suggestive of a plowshare, with its point aimed at the pulpit. The man who stood at the apex was the most important and necessary figure. In dress and appearance he suggested the head floorwaiker of a small department store; in action, though, he was more like the man who sells admissions through the window of the ticket-wagon of the same circus which I mentioned a few paragraphs back.

As the converts came funneling down the lanes and spouting into the space where these seven men were posted, the squad split them apart so that they were diverted into two streams, which, moving one abreast, passed in opposing directions to different directions beneath the platform. The floorwalker-looking man acted as a sort of living puffer in the paths of these streams. Working with a marvelous precision and rapidity, he caught each person who reached him under the right elbow and gave a quick upward jerk of the arm so that the outstretched hand of the other came up to the level of Sunday's outstretched hand; and then in the same half second of space, the hand-clasp having been accomplished, he bestowed upon the convert a sharp shove forward. In another half second the individual thus treated—man, woman or child, as the case might be—was gently steered back; and now one of the ushers was deftly escorting him or her into the front row of benches, which magically had been emptied of their recent occupants to make room for those who wished to profess religion. As each bench here filled up yet other attendants passed along its front, taking down the names, the addresses and the denominational preferences of every group. There was no chance for anyone to delay the progress of the movement; no time for any prolonged speech with Mr. Sunday. The mechanism seemed perfect. I do not see how it could have been more perfect. To you it might appear to smack overmuch of a commercialized spirit in religion, but all the same you had to admire it for its precision and its smoothness of operation.

All Glad to Shake Hands.

I was where I could look down on moving lines and study the upturned faces. Can be it from me to question the sincerity of the motive of any human being engaged in an act of religion or of contrition, but I could not help but suspect that a good many of these trail-hitters were actuated, in part at least, by a perhaps natural desire to have some part in a grand fashion in the drama of a theatrically big moment, or, let us say, by yearning to be able to boast afterwards that they publicly had shaken hands and swapped words with the most conspicuous and famous revivalist of the time. Of such these in the judgment, might mainly be identified by their half-embarrassed, half-exultant mein. If men, they mostly grinned; if women, they giggled nervously. But I would not risk the assertion that these persons were in the majority, or even that they constituted any very considerable proportion of the minority. These persons were spaced in between men and women and children who come up with earnestness and conviction in their bearing and in the looks upon their faces.

Probably seventy-five per cent of the trail-hitters were young; that is, they were under 45. Three in four looked as if they might be small clerks or artisans, or else working girls, shop girls, domestic servants. An interesting circumstance was that a fairly large number of them were evidently Jewish. This was especially true of the female contingent. I should say that one in every ten or twelve of the younger women was distinctly and instinctively of the Semitic type. By this I do not mean that Billy Sunday had made even an indirect effort at proselyting members of their faith to the Christian religion either in this sermon or in any other sermon I have heard him preach during the revival which he is conducting this spring in New York. As I interpreted the fact, his roughly dramatic style of pulpiteering had an especial appeal for the representatives of an inherently emotional race.

The trail-hitting was almost over. A few stragglers were being herded forward by volunteer workers who had become infected with the spirit of the meeting. All the others—eight hundred and more of them—were being listed and tabulated and, for all I know, card-indexed.

Edgar Selwyn, the playwright, standing at my elbow suddenly said to me: "Who on the stage does Sunday remind you of?"

"I give it up," I said. "Who?"

"Eddie Foy," he said.

I glanced again at the preacher, studying his face and posture, and, sure enough, Selwyn was right. Billy Sunday looks more than a little bit like Eddie Foy. And after I came to think it over, I decided that his voice, in its dry, humorous, unctuous twist, suggested Foy's, and that save for his movements, smacked of the comedian's too. When I say this I think I am complimenting both of these distinguished gentlemen. And I imagine, too, if Foy was a preacher he would preach much as Sunday does, and that if Sunday were a comic opera star he would sing and dance much as Foy sings and dances.—(Copyright, 1917, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)

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