

THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1919

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### WELCOME THE HEROES

Early or late be the time of their arrival the soldiers who will come home tomorrow should find the people out to welcome them. They have endured many a long and lonely vigil in the fighting zone, and the story needs no telling now. They are coming home—the largest single group of local men to arrive at one time. They know as we all do that the welcome embraces all returning men, and is expressive of a feeling deep in all hearts toward all who have fought for us, to whatever unit or branch of the service they belonged. The men of the siege batteries will find portions of the city specially decorated in their honor, but they will most appreciate the cheering lines through which they will pass, for there is living force in that welcome, reminding them as it will of the cheers of admiration and pride which marked their departure from home, along with some, alas, who may not return.

As an illustration of what is done in the way of welcome in an American city we quote from the San Francisco Chronicle a paragraph telling of the arrival there of two battalions of troops from overseas:

"Hours before the time set for the procession the streets were lined with dense crowds eagerly seeking positions of advantage, while every train and boat and car, packed to capacity, kept adding its quota to the throng. And what orderly, good-natured, joyous crowds they were! Happiness was in their faces and prosperity marked their appearance. The streets marked for the parade were decorated with flags and flowers, and from every window came as many smiles as could be crowded into the space. At various stages the spectacle resembled nothing so much as a Gargantuan theatre, a magnificent opera-house, with a crowded pit, packed stalls and private boxes, and with a dome of deepest blue. Joy was the predominant note, yet here and there one saw the blanched cheek, the moistened eye that spoke of sorrow for the unreturning brave. And, as the heroes swept into view, joy jessed into a delirium of delight, which was the city's manner of expressing its fervent patriotism. Of the parade itself, there need be no hesitation in saying that it was one of the most magnificent ever staged in a city world-famed for the brilliance of its pageants. Nowhere else but in San Francisco could there have been such a combination of color and design. New York, with her greater wealth of towering buildings, may present a more impressive architectural spectacle, but her canyons could never have the floral decorations which were among the most striking features of Market street. There were flowers everywhere, and thousands of the women marching in the parade carried huge garlands, which gave the celebration the appearance of a monster floral festival. Geographically beautiful as were the colors of the uniforms and special costumes, the richest beauty was that of the flowers—the wild flowers and the smiling faces. Viewed from above and from a point which permitted taking in long stretches of the parade, the most glorious effect witnessed in any pageant. The formality of marching men and women was softened by a waving field of flowers perfect in the harmony of nature. From the dramatic standpoint the staging was magnificent. Event followed event in the order designed, to accentuate the climax, the oncoming of the war-worn heroes. At sight of those helmets the crowds broke into cheers, which seemed to rock the streets as with an upheaval of human emotion. And the heroes—tomorrow or perhaps the day after they will go back to the office, the store or the bench, but though they live to the grand old age of the feebly marching veterans, yet will they always remember how San Francisco turned out to welcome them home."

### WHERE WE FALL SHORT.

When a citizen of St. John goes to a city in western Canada or in the United States one of the first things that attracts attention is the generally well-kept appearance of streets, parks, squares and lawns, and the manifest pride of the citizens, in any but a foreign quarter or the very poorest district, in the outward aspect of the place where they live. It becomes clear to the observer that the citizens are not moved by the spirit of vandalism, and that the children are taught to have a proper regard for public property as well as the property of individuals. The destructive spirit is not only not encouraged, but is made so unpopular that few care to give a manifestation of it.

What shall we say of St. John? In this paper yesterday complaint was made that Red Triangle cards had been torn deliberately from posts on Douglas avenue. The day before complaint was made that a club house had been entered and property destroyed. The Riverview Park Association report that they can have but few seats along the walks this summer, because so many had been wantonly destroyed in the last year or two. Occasionally a young tree planted with care to beautify a street is broken off or torn up by the roots. Flowers are sometimes stolen, even from a cemetery.

There is a general appearance of careless disregard for appearances along the streets, in painful contrast to what one sees who goes abroad. Let us hope the formation of Improvement Leagues will give rise to a more healthy civic spirit in old and young. We should all be proud of our city, and willing to do something to make it more attractive; but of still greater importance is it that the young be trained to have a proper regard for other people's rights and property, and for those things which are the common property of all. The youth who destroys a tree does not injure an individual but robs the whole city of something that added to its beauty. It is one of the faults of our educational system that for the short majority the time at school is so short and so crowded with many studies that a love of the artistic and beautiful is not awakened; nor could it flourish except by contrast in a city so dingy and ill-housed, and with so little of variety in the outward appearance of its streets, with their houses jammed up against the sidewalks and the streets dusty when they are not worse.

And yet the case is far from hopeless. We can put more of the teaching of civics in the schools. We can appeal to civics in people in many ways. We can make civic pride popular. How? By cultivating the community spirit. By those who are fortunately situated taking a personal interest in those who are not, and co-operating with them. The problem is never solved by a subscription list. That may help, and does help to accomplish certain material results; but it is a material and spiritual effect that alone can regenerate a community. This is something we cannot buy. It springs from the contact of mind with mind, striving toward common ideals. To accomplish large results is not easy. It has been truly said that if some houses are not fit for people to live in there are also some people who are not fit to live in houses. They must be taught. It is not an easy nor always a pleasant task; but for the sake of the children in such homes the effort should be made. And there there are very few persons, after all, who are so utterly without a sense of pride that they will not join in what is shown to them to be a community movement.

A visitor to this city a year or two since in a public meeting asked this searching question:—"What do you do when you are doing nothing?" He went on to demonstrate that it is really, what a man or woman does in leisure time that determines their value in general citizenship. For most people the mere task of gaining a livelihood absorbs most of the time, and if they are to engage in activities for the general welfare they must do it in time otherwise devoted to mere personal pleasure, by persons who have not, perhaps, learned that there is a higher source of satisfaction than a purely selfish one. For lack of leadership by those who ought to lead, undesirable community conditions continue, and a city which ought itself to be a leader and an example, falls behind. It is never too late to make a fresh start, however, and now that the war can no longer be urged as an excuse, we should bettle ourselves to make St. John a better city, whose citizens are moved by a real community spirit.

### THE LIBERAL CONVENTION.

The whole country will be interested in the arrangements published today concerning the Liberal convention in Ottawa in August. It will be representative of Liberalism in all the provinces, and will undoubtedly be one of the most important political conventions ever held at the capital. The interesting announcement is made that the Canadian Council of Agriculture, the Dominion Trades and Labor Congress, the Great War Veterans' Association and the Canadian Railroad Brotherhoods will be invited to send representatives to present to the convention the views of those bodies on national questions before the Liberal national platform is adopted. The plans for the selection of Liberal delegates are very comprehensive. This is not to be the ordinary kind of party convention. The political situation in Canada is such that very many people are in doubt as to the future alignment of parties. We shall have had the budget before this convention meets, and the people will know how far the government is prepared to go in regard to tariff revision. Possibly, also, the much-talked-of cabinet reconstruction will have taken place. Sir Robert Borden will have returned from Europe and many things that are now obscure will appear in a clearer light. Perhaps before August certain of the Liberal leaders will have learned that it is not good policy for them to indulge in grossly unfair and unwarranted attacks upon any who differed from them when the union government was formed and endorsed by the people.

St. John cordially welcomes Sir Robert and Lady Baden-Powell. Pleasant memories of a former brief visit by Sir Robert remain with members of the Canadian Club and others who met him at that time. He had then a noble record of service of the Empire which has since been greatly enlarged. The chief scout will be especially welcomed by the boy scouts of this city, and he in turn will be glad to know that they perform many useful services.

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## AFTER QUITTING SALOON BUSINESS

(Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Journal.)

"I'm glad I'm out of the saloon business." Two former knights of the white apron who quit serving liquor within the last two years to embark in other lines expressed themselves in about the same language when asked their opinion of the transition. One expressed satisfaction at not being obliged to work nights and Sundays, and the other felt he had quit a business which, generally speaking, was brought into disrepute by the tactics of interests dominating about ninety per cent of the saloons in Milwaukee.

"In the nineteen years I maintained a

place in the University Building on Mason street I believe I kept shorter hours than any other saloon in the city," said Joe Komorowski, president of the Truxton-Hudford Sales Company, 188 Eight street. "Rarely did I keep open after midnight, and nearly every Sunday I closed by two o'clock in the afternoon."

"So far as my trade was concerned I had no criticism to offer, but since engaging in the automobile business I certainly enjoy the elimination of night and Sunday work."

Blames Brewers for Dry Laws. "In my opinion brewers interests are entirely responsible for the advent of prohibition," said Louis Meier, grain inspector for the Chamber of Commerce and for nine years proprietor of a saloon at Muskegon avenue and Mitchell street. "The first consideration with them was to get the money. It mattered little whether a man applying for a saloon was clean or not. When given a stand by the brewery he was really little more than a bar-tender for them. They watched his trade and income, when he built it up a little they would correspondingly increase the rent and the price of beer."

"Consequently, the saloon keeper, in many instances, was forced to accept the last nickel of a drunken man who may have been depriving his family of food and clothing. But this was of no concern to the brewery. If the saloon keeper got into trouble by catering to women and minors, or permitted drunken orgies in his place, he might lose his license but the brewery would simply put another saloon keeper in the stand and continue to watch the business from a financial point of view."

Ostracized by Society.

"The saloon keeper, I found, was generally ostracized socially. The poor look upon him as the one responsible for taking the wages of the head of a family. The public does not realize that conditions under which saloons have been operated were, in most cases, due to the manner in which breweries gripped the man holding a lease on one of their places. Of course, location and trade has much to do with the conduct of these places, but after all it is the brewery in the long run that controls the saloon keeper, no matter where he may do business."

"Even if prohibition was not imminent you couldn't drag me behind a bar with a team of horses. I prefer the work I'm doing."

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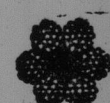
MORE SOLDIERS COMING

Ottawa, May 8.—The ambulance transport Essequibo, with 888 Canadian wounded on board and seventeen nursing sisters is now on her way across the Atlantic, and will probably reach Portland (Me.), on May 13. The soldiers and nursing sisters for the various military districts are as follows: Montreal, 47; Quebec, 51; Halifax, 88; St. John, 23.

Transport on Way. Ottawa, May 8.—The militia department states that the transport Royal George which is due on or about May 11,

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