

The Union Advocate

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CANADIAN SOLDIERS TRIED AND FEARLESS

Major W. H. Belyea, in Interesting Letter, Tells of Experiences at Front--Canadians the Equal of Trained Soldiers

The following is a very interesting letter from Major W. H. Belyea, of Newcastle, who left Canada with the Second Contingent, to Mr. E. A. McCurdy, who is at present writing in the support trenches "somewhere in France."

Major Belyea, with his company, has been on the firing line, and his story of his experiences since leaving this side is interesting.

Speaking of the Canadian boys, Major Belyea says that under fire and under all conditions they are proving a marvel to the trained soldiers of Europe.

In Support Trenches, Oct. 26, 1915.

E. A. McCurdy, Esq., Newcastle, N. B.

Dear Mr. McCurdy:

Your favour of Sept. 21st just received this evening.

This Battalion is now doing its third tour of duty in the trenches.

As I have "C" Company, it is my turn in the support trench.

Here we are under long range rifle fire and the Germans favour us with shells from their artillery every day.

This is called a quiet week, neither side is attacking on our immediate front.

So far this trip my company has lost but two men wounded, both of whom the doctor says will recover if complications do not set in.

As tomorrow night since we first went into the firing line, our losses so far are 27 killed or died of wounds and about 50 wounded and hospitalized.

This does not include about a dozen who were slightly wounded but are able to stay on duty with the Battalion.

New Brunswick should be proud of her men and the way they behave under fire.

Old soldiers tell us they never have seen cooler men in action.

Most of our losses were incurred in the "reconnaissance in force" which, under our Brigadier's orders, the 26th made of some German craters on the afternoon of ---.

Both sides, where our trenches are close together, mine out and try to blow up the other's trenches.

The Germans had blown up a mine about half-way over to the trench occupied by our "A" Company.

A few days after our Brigadier became suspicious that the Germans were building a gun emplacement or bomb proof in this crater.

One afternoon in question at 2 o'clock our artillery opened on the German line and muzzled it up all they could for an hour and a half.

Then it stopped and our men threw smoke bombs at the German trenches.

As the wind blew this cloud over their trench they began to rush up troops to meet the attack, they felt sure we were going to follow.

Then we opened on these supports with rapid rifle, machine gun and artillery fire.

Our position is in a broad flat valley and the smoke prevented us from seeing the effect of our fire but the artillery observers on the low hills behind us estimated that the German losses at about 400.

During this fusillade our Battalion bombarded a party of riflemen from "A" Company rushed into the German craters but found no works nor men there, but when they retired from the craters the Germans swept them with artillery, rifle and machine gun fire and with bombs.

They brought their wounded in with them but left 9 bodies out in front.

That night the Germans kept the ground lit up with star shells and flares and swept with fire so that our men could not get the bodies.

The following night however was foggy and the bodies crept out and brought in 8 of the bodies.

The body of Sergt. Cotter they could not find and no doubt the Germans got it.

One man was still alive but unconscious. A bullet had grazed his spinal column.

The doctor worked over him for 3 hours and finally brought him to so he knew him but he has since died.

During the afternoon the Germans had only field artillery playing on us.

They have two kinds: "chick bangs" and "little Willys" are the British soldiers nicknames for them, but about 5.30 when we thought the rumpus was about over, their heavy artillery burst with a "chick bang" on us.

Every few days some of us get parcels of food, etc., from friends we made when in England or Scotland, and they are very much appreciated.

I received a loaf cake, (Continued on page 4)

Sir Charles Tupper Laid To Rest Tuesday Afternoon

Ten Thousand Paid Tribute to the Last of the Fathers of Confederation--Order of Procession and Floral Tributes Many Dominion Notables Present

(Special to The Advocate)

Halifax, Nov. 16--Halifax is in a state of mourning today.

The stores and public buildings, closed at noon, and on all sides are flags at half mast for the late Sir Charles Tupper.

The body arrived from Quebec on Monday, and was conveyed to the Provincial Building, where it has been lying in state, and all day long and until eleven forty-five this morning, crowds filed through the council chamber to take a last look at the famous Statesman.

The funeral drapings, flowers, etc., all made the scene an impressive one.

The Anti-room was draped with purple and black, the four walls being lined with black cloth, and the casket being covered by the Union Jack, while a Guard of Honor with reversed arms, lined the passage through which the crowds passed.

High at the back and over the casket was the beautiful wreath sent by the Dominion Government.

Special train with the members of the Dominion Government arrived at eight thirty this morning.

At twelve o'clock the remains were moved to St. Paul's Church, the outside of which was draped in purple and black, and the decorations on the interior beggars description.

At two o'clock the service was commenced by Rev. Bishop Worrell, but long before that time the church was taxed to its utmost capacity, while the route of the procession to St. John's cemetery, where interment was made, was lined with soldiers, and thousands of citizens.

The service in St. Paul's church was intensely moving.

The music included Chopin's Marche Funebre and the favorite hymns of Sir Charles, "Peace, Perfect Peace," and "Now the Laborer's Task is O'er."

As the body was removed to take its place in the procession, the Dead March in Saul was given.

Archbishop Worrell, in his sermon, said in part:

"We have come here today to honor the memory of one who brought great honor, not only to Nova Scotia and the Dominion of Canada, but to the British Empire."

Sir Charles Tupper was more than a Nova Scotian, although, in his eyes to be a Nova Scotian was a distinction itself.

He was a Canadian of the truest type who saw something more in Canada than vast physical extent.

He was an imperialist whose pulse beat with the throbs that came from the life of the empire."

The archbishop referred to Sir Charles' ambition to link the provinces together, to improve trade, an ambition which found expression in his labors on behalf of confederation, the Intercolonial and Canadian Pacific railways, and in the Welland and St. Lawrence canals.

While Sir Charles had his faults, he was nevertheless actuated by right motives and showed a political record which might well be envied by some subsequent politicians.

He was of a generation passed away, a type of public man not produced to-day.

He was an optimist and a visionary, and his visions came true.

The procession emphasized the fact that his efforts as a public man have brought to the permanent secretary and staff of the office of the Canadian High Commissioner, London; wreath on stand, Sir Robert and Lady Borden; wreath, Sir Joseph and Lady Pope; wreath on easel, Provincial Liberal-Conservative organization; nine wreaths from Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific; Sir William Mackenzie, president of the Canadian Northern, and Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission.

The more personal element in the concourse of mourners was provided by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper and Sir Charles Tupper, the latter the statesman's heir.

The order of procession which was two miles long, was as follows:

City Police

Military Bands

Military and Naval Escort

Floral Carriages

Officiating Clergymen

Funeral Car drawn by black horses and led by Dominion Police.

Mourners

Lieut.-Governors of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick with A. D. C.

Archbishop McCarty

Members Dominion Cabinet and Public Men.

Military and Naval Officers

Members of Senate

Speaker, Deputy Speaker of Commons

Members Nova Scotia Government.

Members New Brunswick Government.

and hundreds of noted men from all parts of the Dominion.

The soldiers who guarded the route were members of the Garrison Artillery, Canadian Engineers, Sixty-third Regiment, Sixty-sixth Regiment, No. 1 Overseas Siege Battery, Sixty-fourth and Eighty-fifth Battalions, Halifax Cadets.

The following is a list of the flowers: Wreath, Conservative members of Nova Scotia legislature; wreath, Sir Hugh and Lady Graham, Montreal; school desk, 1865, Rod Macdonald, Halifax; standing anchor, government and members of the House of Assembly of Nova Scotia; large magnolia wreath, British Empire Association of Illinois; gates ajar, government and people; laurel wreath, Lt. Governor and Mrs. Mackeen; wreaths, Corporation City of Halifax, Pictou County Conservative Association, mayor and town council and citizens of Truro, staff at Mount Bexley Heath, England; wreath of orchids, roses and lily of the valley, the Dominion of Canada; wreaths, Halifax County Liberal Association; members of Canadian Club, Halifax; Canadian Club, Winnipeg; the Daughters of the Empire, Quebec; Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Tupper, Quebec; Conservative Association of Quebec; Sir George and Lady Perley, London; officers of the Pay and Record Office, Canadian Expeditionary Force, London; government and people of Canada; anchor, Club Cartier of Quebec; basket, Miss Gray, Abbeey Wood, Kent; wreath from his old coachman, Lankford; wreath of eyes leaves from the permanent secretary and staff of the office of the Canadian High Commissioner, London; wreath on stand, Sir Robert and Lady Borden; wreath, Sir Joseph and Lady Pope; wreath on easel, Provincial Liberal-Conservative organization; nine wreaths from Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific; Sir William Mackenzie, president of the Canadian Northern, and Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Dominion Railway Commission.

FOR AND AGAINST UNION OF CHURCHES

The Case for Each Side Aply Presented in St. James Church Sunday Evening--Vote Taken This Week

The vote on Church Union is being taken in St. James Presbyterian Church this week, the ballots being distributed Sunday night.

The case for each side was ably presented at Sunday night's service, Rev. J. F. McCurdy, B. A., of Edinburgh, speaking against the proposed union, and the pastor, Rev. S. J. MacArthur in favor of it.

The addresses were, in part, as follows:

Rev. J. F. McCurdy

Mr. McCurdy said we should do all in our power to perpetuate both Presbyterian and Methodist churches, as each had a work to do which could not be done by the other or by a new church.

It was said that most of the "leaders" were for union. Well we were taught to follow our consciences. When John Brown, a praying man, was in prison awaiting execution, he refused to see those ministers who called upon him to convert him from his anti-slavery views. So we must each decide for himself.

The importance of this vote would be enormous. Presbyterians were asked to sacrifice their church and the principles upon which it had been founded. And the Methodists and Congregationalists were asked to make the same sacrifice.

Each of the three were asked to obliterate their own in favor of a new one. If we vote for Union we take a step from which we cannot withdraw. Some of us, knowing our church's history, are unwilling to let it go.

The question was discussed the last ten years and voted on three or four years ago with a measure of aloofness, but this present vote, if for Union, was to be final.

If we remain as we are, we should have gained much from the ten years' correspondence with the other churches. We should understand and respect them better.

There were Methodist men who realize that there is still a work for their church to do and also the Presbyterian. Union can be effected at any future day if then deemed advisable.

The question of overlapping in the West was not serious. Official reports showed that of 151 mission stations in northern Alberta only 15 overlapped with the Methodist; only 6 out of 245 in Central Alberta, and 10 out of 332 in Southern Saskatchewan--a total of 31 out of 768. In the other provinces there was more overlapping of Presbyterian with Presbyterian and of Methodist with Methodist than of Presbyterian with Methodist. The further west one went the more opposition to Union. The growth of each church in the West would cure what little overlapping there was there.

It was argued that upon practical unity, now noticed in faith and practice demanded corporate unity. It was true the three churches now marched together side by side. And that was better than if they coalesced. Difference of temperament made closer union unwise. Thank God for the Episcopal church, that suited the type that desired uniformity of prayer and a stately ritual for the Methodist, that suited the emotional type; and for the Presbyterians.

The interest of immigrants would not be served by the United church, as well as by the separate churches. The immigrant wished to find a church like the one he had left.

Amalgamation, which is all right in business, tends to limitation of individuality so much needed in spiritual life.

Presbyterians now had direct connection with their sessions, Presbyteries, Synods and General Assemblies. If the three churches joined, our numbers would be doubled, and the representation probably halved, making it doubtful for many to ever be representatives at the General Assembly. Committee rule would obtain and produce bureaucracy, which was often highly efficient but did not tend to foster spirituality.

The Union doctrinal statement was a compromise, and to some it appeared to be a sacrifice of conviction and any Union to be effective must, as the Bishop of Fredericton recently said, be a union of maximums. The Union statement was a union of minimums. And, in deference to Congregational demands, we now were not even asked to subscribe to the Union Statement. Because of the clear-cut Presbyterian standards, there had been only three or four heresy trials in Canada since 1875. There had been in the Canadian Presbyterian church a minister who had so changed as to declare that he prayed no more to Jesus than to one of his elders. That man had been judiciously dealt with and to-day,

no doubt, fully accepted the deity of Jesus as he (Mr. McCurdy) did. Under Union such a man, not having had to subscribe to any statement, could, if fellowship were withdrawn from him because of heresy, appeal to the civil courts for reinstatement.

In Union an ordained Eldership might, being optional, disappear. The settlement of ministers was left entirely in the hands of a settlement committee, which supercedes the right of the congregation calling its own minister. The committee is universal in its sway, irresponsible in its action and absolute in its authority--answerable to the Synod in nothing. The Synod can only appoint a new committee.

The principle of the call was correct. An Ex-President of Mt. Allison had gone to Toronto to vote for the call. Another Methodist minister had personally written him that if he could begin over again he would never submit to a Stationing Committee. Such a committee made lobbying easy. The church of Scotland had fought ten years to receive the right of call. If it were the choice between an irresponsible committee and a Bishop who all means let us have the Bishop. If the leading professors of our church are not satisfied with the church as she is, let them leave it to those who are satisfied with it.

Those who should vote for Union would vote to obliterate their church. Their action would almost certainly raise a perfect storm of litigation. Ever so many did not propose to surrender church property to a new organization. Pine Hill College for instance, was so deeded that if the church should ever change its faith the college should revert to the possession of that body, nearest in faith to the Westminster Confession. Before you vote to obliterate your church, stop and enquire What evil hath she done?

Rev. S. J. MacArthur

Rev. Mr. MacArthur replied.

He did not think there would be any litigation such as was raised by the "Wee Pines" in Scotland, where no legislation had been previously sought to avoid it. If there should be any body of Presbyterians in Canada who should refuse to unite there was a provision to divide the church property pro rata.

Too much emphasis had been placed upon the Stationing Committee. All ministers would be under the control of the Presbytery.

Re the Doctrinal Statement, it would be the duty of the Presbytery to examine and recommend all students for the ministry and examine them each year, and finally to ordain and install all ministers. In this case a minister so well grounded and so carefully passed would not need so much to formally subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement.

After Union each congregation as nearly as possible would be preserved as present.

The Basis of Union was a union of maximums. We can afford to stand only on minimums. A union of old style Calvinists and Arminians would be impossible. But the advocates of those extreme doctrines had each modified their views. Finally at the Union negotiations the Methodist and Congregational delegates had handed in a blank paper on Calvinism and Arminianism, and the basis accepted was that of the Presbyterian church of Scotland put forward by the Presbyterian delegates.

Fifty years ago Union was impossible. Why was it so near to-day? Because the churches had been brought together by common work in the Bible Society, for Temperance, for Social Service, in the Lord's Day Alliance--by a nobler charity. Not many years ago the different churches misunderstood and distrusted each other. Now either a Methodist or Presbyterian felt at home in each other's church. There were all temperaments in the Presbyterian church now. Indeed, there was temperament enough in Newcastle to supply all Canada.

The clergy now studied the same commentaries. Every church has to run the gamut of scientific scholarship. It was surprising how much is held in common.

There was now a United college in Montreal--for Presbyterians, Methodists, Congregationalists and Anglicans--so successful that there was a fund of \$500,000 to build an adequate college. The students studied mostly together, only drawing apart a little while to consider the particular things of each. It was impossible that the great moral and spiritual forces drawing men together should fail to lead to a more visible union.

(Continued on page 5)

Largest Steamer Yet in Port Here

British Steamer Sandon Hall, 410 Feet Long, Loading at Hickson's

The British steamer Sandon Hall, Capt. Rowlands, of the Hall Line, is now loading lumber at Hickson's wharf for Havre, France.

This steamer is said to be the largest ever to take a cargo from Miramichi ports and looks like a dreadnought as compared with the tramp steamers which usually visit this port.

This big boat is 410 feet long with 50 foot beam, and has a draught of 28 feet loaded. The work of loading here will probably be finished on Thursday and the steamer will go to a Quebec port, we understand, to take a deck load of cattle for the Allied armies. The lumber carried from here is also to be used by the Allied Armies in the construction of trenches and dug-outs.

The crew are mostly Indian Coolies, from Bombay, India, and look rather out of place in Northern New Brunswick, wearing nothing but a short skirt of brilliant hues while at work on board the steamer. They seem to have no fear of the strong north wind which has been blowing the last few days.

BORN

At Newcastle, Nov. 11th, to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deino, a son.