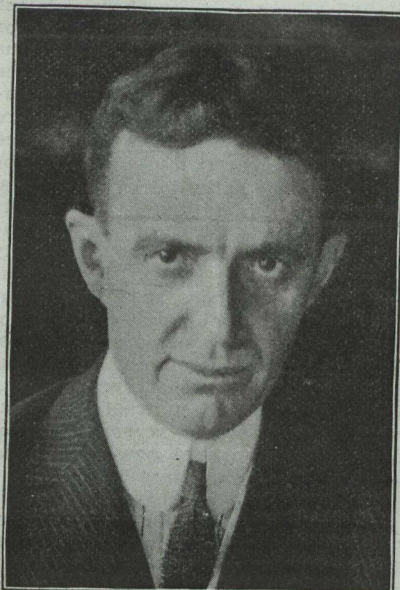


A Canadian City in War Time

MAYOR CHURCH.



The subject is a large one to deal with at all in an adequate way. When war broke out Canada was unprepared to meet conditions and dislocations which resulted—but recovered itself very quickly. Toronto, a city of 486,000 in population, with an area of about twelve miles along Lake Ontario by ten miles in and almost entirely built up, has sent already in the neighborhood of 60,000 soldiers overseas to fight in Flanders and in France, under the voluntary system.

War has made many changes in our City. A municipality in war time must cease spending money on local improvements and stop its capital expenditures as

far as possible, except for works actually under construction, Red Cross and other war expenditures. It should be careful not to add to the capital debt except for works which are revenue producing and absolutely necessary. **Returned soldiers should be given the preference in all civic positions exclusively.**

The City should insure its soldiers who enlist in this fight for humanity. Every resident of Toronto receives One Thousand Dollars cash indemnity from the City.

The work of many of the civic departments is multiplied in war time, while in the Public Works Department the work is lessened. The Police Department is overworked in war time. They have to assist the Federal and State authorities as well as look after aliens and alien enemies.

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WAR TIME EXPERIENCES.—Continued.

a great deal in private institutions, together with professional nurses, some of whom have gratuitously given their time and skill.

The large numbers of returned men give rise to several other problems—such as re-educational classes for those whose wounds and mutilated limbs unfit them for their former employment. Those gassed and shell-shocked also present serious questions. They start at sudden sounds, fight battles in their dreams, and require very sympathetic treatment. One question of deep importance has been how to see to it that the soldier, his sacrifices, and his war aims shall not be forgotten in the years after the war. Some of us thought the solution to have been reached by your Grand Army of the Republic. We have, therefore, aided in forming The Great War Veterans Associations which now numbers between twenty and thirty thousand, and will probably when peace arrives contain four hundred thousand. It already promises to be one of the most powerful of the new influences in Canadian life. It has been imitated in Australia, and ultimately the hope is that all soldiers of the Allies will be linked together in The Great War Veterans of the World. The most precious of all honors is to wear the gilt wound stripes and the button of the returned soldier.

With all our losses, our anxieties, and our stern and serious days, no Canadian worthy of the name will ever regret that our boys sprang by instinct to the help of the oppressed and took up the battle for the common liberties of mankind. You also, men and women of our blood, were bound to be there. We felt you could not keep out of it; although the stupid Hohenzollern, true to type, took your long-tried patience for fear of his might.

In all these conditions the part of municipal authorities is plain. Their duty is to lead and co-operate in every kind of patriotic action within their territory.

The United States has made a good start and will have the benefit of the mistakes made by our City and others in Canada. The American cities will learn from our experience and will be able to effect considerable economy.

All unnecessary public works should be stopped in war time except those under contract, local improvements, street extensions and other improvements should be discontinued, they can well afford to wait over until after the war.

Our larger cities, in winter, become a training camp for soldiers. They have handed their municipal properties over to the Government for camps for soldiers, and Toronto's city owned car lines carry the soldiers free, though the private Street Railway Company here makes them pay a fare.

Owing to the work provided by Munition Plants and other works, unemployment is very largely eliminated. Labor becomes scarce and is at a premium.

The City should take the lead in all patriotic work, such as Red Cross and Patriotic funds, assisting them in every way possible.

The best that a city can give the soldiers is none too good for them for all they are going to suffer for us.

The coal and food situation may be materially relieved by civic co-operation and the City should assist the federal and state governments by joint action; to assist regulating prices, and also in the fuel and food situations.

Proper guards should be put on all civic property. They have a twenty-four hour a day guard on our waterworks and on other public buildings. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure later on. At the start of the war we had a military guard on civic property, but this has been substituted by a civil guard under the control of the Police Department. **Civic receptions should be given when the troops go away and when they come home.** In Toronto the returned men are met by a band, given a civic welcome and taken to their homes in automobiles, and otherwise looked after, and as soon as discharged are found suitable positions.

Employers of labor and manufacturers when their employees return from the front should not expect 100 per cent. of efficiency from them and should not reduce them to a minor position to their old one—at lesser pay, for were it not for the soldier to-day the manufacturers' business would be nowhere in such a war as this.

Officers of all ranks should not forget that the soldier of to-day is a civilian. The men should be treated properly and not as inferiors of the officers. This is a democratic country and the men have left their civil positions for the good of the colors and civilization. While discipline is necessary there should be democratic spirit between the officers and men of all ranks. If the state collects war taxes the money should be spent for war purposes and not impose too much war tax on the municipalities.

The people are taxed to death by federal and state enactments and while the municipality's expenditures are doubled for war purposes, their revenues are becoming depleted all the time. The assessment of the City in war time should as much as possible not be interfered with.

The State imposes a war tax of one mill on the dollar per annum on the assessment of the City.

We have Sixty Thousand soldiers away from Toronto on active service, but only some fifty thousand are included in the Civic Insurance inasmuch as they had not all been residing in the municipality before 1914 to qualify for our insurance scheme.

The City should assist the soldiers in seeing that they get proper transports, assist in notifying their relatives, have a Civic Bureau to look after the soldiers' wants and needs. The City should pay the difference between the military pay and the civic salaries of its own employees who have joined the colors while they are on active service.

The war is a gigantic affair and rigid economy should be practiced. Cities on this side of the line should not make the great mistake that Toronto has made of assuming too many federal responsibilities. Toronto has spent vast sums to assist recruiting which the Federal Government should have paid. We have given over to the Government a ten-million dollar property known as the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds and other public buildings to house the troops for eight months of the year. The American cities should prepare to receive the returned men, as in less than

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