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AN APPRECIATION OF HEROISM.

THE prospect of having a monument in memory of Nova Scotians who fell in South Africa, is one that should appeal strongly to the citizens of this city. If they do not come promptly to the aid of those who are laboring to collect funds for this loyal purpose, it will be to their disgrace. Perhaps this remark may seem uncalled for, inasmuch as we are likely to have the monument, and Halifax citizens as a body will not in that case be open to the charge. But we are prompted to make it because of certain criticisms by people on different sides. Inasmuch as the Halifax Herald has taken the initiative and up to this time is the only active instrument at work organizing the fund, some have gone to the trouble of impugning its motives. On the one hand it is said that the fund is purely for advertising purposes; on the other, that it is for political effect alone. This is absurd. But supposing it is true, what difference does it make? Supposing it is for advertising purposes or for political effect; in what way will the ultimate result be affected? We will have the monument just the same. That is to say, we will have it if everybody gives the movement the support it deserves and stops criticising. People

who say nasty things about the Herald's efforts are not likely to do the cause any good, and if they stand in its way by their behavior they have a right to be regarded unpatriotic. There is nothing much meaner than to question one's motives when one is working for an end that ought to have the sympathy and support of all. And it doesn't require any brains to be mean. Moreover, the work the Herald is undertaking is not easy and everybody ought to be grateful to the management for the amount of space the paper is devoting to the matter and the strong, enthusiastic, persistent effort it is making to bring the movement to a successful consummation. Whosoever is patriotic and can afford to spare any money will contribute to this fund—nay, will even make a sacrifice if necessary. When the names of contributors are published, the lists will form an instructive study, for then we shall be able to learn who are public spirited, and by the process of elimination, discover who are not. We must have a monument. How can we fail to perpetuate the memory of Paardeberg and the names of those who died in the cause of Queen and Empire? We should have a monument that is the property of all the people, in whose erection will be used the mite of the poor as well as the dollars of the wealthy, so that every Nova Scotian looking on it in future years may feel with pride that while his countrymen whose names are inscribed thereon bled for the country's service, he had a part in erecting this monument to their memory. Accordingly, the BLUENOSE urges support of the monument movement. This is the time to do it—these "khaki" days, these spacious times when the air is full of great doings. Let the slow man then forsake his slowness, and the parsimonious man his thoughts of pennies saved, and—pay; pay now, lest the swiftly moving times bring about the day when there shall be no opportunity left. Let us show our fellow-countrymen that the city that could give the returning soldiers a hearty Canadian welcome home, can likewise rear a monument to show that it appreciates heroism.

ONE CENT DROP POSTAGE.

IT is very difficult to make a perfect law. The postal authorities of the Dominion have found this, or rather the people have found that the postal authorities have been unable to make regulations that are popular in all details. Everyone is grateful for the postage reduction whereby letters may be sent to almost any part of the world with which there is much communication by letter, at an even rate of two cents. People recognise that when this much has been done it is ungrateful to complain. Yet there are some details of the postal laws that they would like to see remedied. One of these is the charge of two cents on letters mailed to parties in the city. In towns where there is no mail delivery and where letters are put into a post office box as soon as mailed, the rate is only one cent. In the city the extra charge is supposed to cover the cost of delivery. Yet in many cases there is no delivery at all; letters are put right into boxes. This is particu-

larly the case with business letters, for all business men have post office boxes and collect their mail regularly; letters are never delivered to them. Business men, therefore, feel that many dollars are annually spent in postage that might be saved, if a clause were inserted in the postal regulations covering this point; for many firms have quantities of matter that they prefer to mail rather than deliver by messenger—such quantities that if only one cent were charged on each envelope the amount saved in the aggregate would be quite large. If one man holds this opinion, the majority do, and some action should be taken to bring the matter before the post office department. This is something that might very properly be taken up by the Board of Trade; and if the matter were strongly enough put, the post office department would be glad to consider it. It is possible that on looking into the matter it might be found practicable to reduce the "drop" rate to one cent for cities, in which case action in the matter would bring the postal laws several steps nearer perfection. Failing that, however, it should be possible to have a clause inserted that would cover the case of letters mailed in the post office and that are not intended to be delivered but merely put into boxes. There are doubtless difficulties in the way, and the easiest solution of the whole matter would be to reduce the rate to one cent all round. But if the latter is not practicable, there must be some machinery for separating "box" and "delivery" letters, and so arranging matters that the former will require only a one cent stamp. It rests largely with business men whether this shall be done or not. If they speak plainly enough they may have the matter attended to, to their satisfaction.

THE LATE GEORGE A. PYKE.

DURING the present year death has claimed many of the prominent business men of Halifax. At the moment of this writing we recall several instances. The death of Mr. Geo. A. Pyke a few days ago made the latest addition to the list.

Mr. Pyke was one of the best known men in Halifax, though he lived quietly and avoided whatever appeared into the least degree ostentatious. His close attention to business brought him into intimate touch with the business community and with that circle outside that must come in contact with it to some extent. His opportunity combined with a genial and courteous manner made him a host of friends, and as a result his death is keenly regretted by a large number of fellow citizens, who, on account of the esteem in which they held him, and for personal reasons as well, have deep sympathy for those whom his death has bereaved.

Looking back over the years that have gone it is a pleasure to recollect how Mr. Pyke succeeded in life. He was an example of one who owed success to his own efforts alone, for he fought his way up from the first rung to the top of the ladder. Diligence was in his life the main factor, and with that he combined a faculty for management, and also for details of his business. He was prudent, never extravagant, always living within his means. His income over and above expenses he invested in legitimate enterprises. With a commendable faith in the resources of the province, he did a great deal to develop them. In all ways his success was well merited, for it represented hard work as well as care and thoughtfulness.