

WEEKLY SUN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1912

CURRIE NOT RETIRING

Mischiefous slander, careless rumor, or both, have done an injustice to General Currie, commander of the overseas forces. It is now said that reports of his prospective retirement are entirely without foundation, that there is no basis for the suggestion of friction with the Government authorities or with his subordinates. Also that the statement that he was reckless of his men is entirely without foundation, that it is directly contrary to the facts. General Currie appears to have won the approval of the British commander-in-chief as well as the admiration and confidence of his own officers and men, and to stand higher in their estimation today than at any time in his career.

SO-CALLED PEACE TERMS

German peace proposals emanating from the Kaiser or any German Government of which he is the head, are so much wasted effort so far as Canada is concerned. The Union Government has but mounted to the saddle armed with a mandate to do all that is necessary towards clearing the world of the foulness and taint of German Kultur. The Canadian people have shown their determination to "be in at the death" of all the forces in Germany which regard treaties as scraps of paper and preach the doctrine of terrorism and that might is right.

Though the Kaiser has met check in Canada he is calculating on the effects of his alleged peace offers first of all on the people at home. He seeks to renew the belief that Germany is fighting a defensive war, so as to strengthen the determination of his people to continue in the struggle while he well knows they would decline if they could ascertain the facts. Then there is the effect of the Bolsheviks in Russia, the Romanians, and the pacifists and weak-kneed in Britain, America and Australia.

Late reports from Australia indicate that the Bolsheviks do not all dwell in Russia, but it is hoped that there will be a sufficient force by the Australian soldiers to swing that country into line for compulsory military service and necessary war measures.

The Kaiser's peace note seems to be "made in Germany" for consumption in England. The various factions which support the Lloyd George Government have shown unmistakable signs of restlessness and the Kaiser would like to see Lloyd George go down and out, hence the peace note to stir up the pacifists. Perhaps Lloyd George will see the advisability of securing a mandate from the people. If he should decide to do so there is little doubt that the Kaiser's peace plans would fall of the desired effect in Britain.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The splendid organization which undertook so successfully the election of the Union Government candidate, Dr. Howard F. Whidden, should not disband or disintegrate. The committee, which is composed of men of trusts and suspicions were dissipated and engagement in a common task made fast friends of men who previously regarded each other with aversion and positive dislike.

There are many problems the solving of which would be of tremendous service to this community and which could be tackled by such a committee without risking division into factions. And the conquering of a few obstacles

to growth and development would cement friendship and promote unity.

Visitors have upon more than one occasion suggested that one of our vital needs is a common interest, that if the leading citizens or men who should be leading citizens, in the best sense of that hackneyed phrase, had a common meeting ground, the currents and cross-currents which hamper and hinder would disappear. This has been proven to be true by the organization which took charge of Dr. Whidden's election in this city. A signal opportunity for community service presents itself. Shall we wilfully or carelessly turn our backs upon it? the highest type of citizenship, rendered this community a service by their splendid activities and now that the immediate business in hand has been disposed of, should turn attention to other problems which are almost as important if less spectacular.

The protracted struggle revealed the workers to each other. It emphasized characteristics and aptitudes undreamed of and revealed a wealth of sterling qualities. Former dis-

GOVERNMENT HAS MANDATE

Now that the election has been fought and won and the Union Government is firmly settled in the saddle, it is becoming apparent that Laurier and his followers, who forced the Government to go to the country have unwittingly rendered the nation a genuine service. Though this was far from their intention, yet it is the result. When Sir Wilfrid Laurier refused to acquiesce in the request for a further extension of the life of the Canadian Parliament, he forced an election. His action was bitterly resented because it was felt that he was placing party before the nation and that he was bidding for power, caring nothing for the cause, the rest of Canada held dearer than life itself. It was felt that Canada stood true to the promise of Sir Robert Borden to provide five hundred thousand men for war service and that an election could only result in diverting the attention of the members of the new Union Government from the important business in hand. However, the leader of the opposition left the Government without any option. An appeal was made to the country and an election contest resulted such as probably never again will be waged in Canada.

The predominant issue was whether or not Canada would continue a vigorous prosecution of the war and the enforcement of the Military Service Act. Laurier's Quebec lieutenants took such a pronounced attitude that it became apparent to all English-speaking people that Quebec planned to dominate affairs in Canada and that under their direction Canada would drop out of the war. This roused the people and their purpose of continuing the war became adamant. They also resented the attempt by one province to dominate seven others.

In the vote which has just been taken, the people of Canada showed their earnest determination to do their part towards winning the war, and there is a unanimity about it that is convincing. Where, before the election, there was hesitation and inaction on the part of the Government because of lack of knowledge as to how far public opinion warranted them in going, there is now clarity and definiteness. The people of Canada have spoken and have said to the Government that they must take whatever steps are needed to raise not only the necessary fighting forces but to provide them with the best equipment and make them, if they are not already, the most effective fighting force in the battle for freedom. The people have declared that winning the war is the all-important business and the Government has a mandate to enact any legislation necessary.

DROPS OUT QUIETLY

The position of the Laurier candidates in Western Canada and the little Canadians that rallied round them and made possible their continuance in the fight, is pitiable. They have been false to their country, false to their country's defenders, false to the British Empire and false to civilization and today they are marked men. They will be marked as long as they live for their repudiation of the Canadian army and of oppressed humanity will always be remembered against them. It will stand particularly to their discredit with all the soldiers who returned, and their families and friends. He is a rash man who having publicly declared himself as supporting Laurier in this election will offer himself for election to any public office. Appearance as such a candidate will invite the query that will often be asked in coming days: "What did you do in the great war?" While the position of these men is pitiful they have only themselves to blame and they should quietly drop out of public sight.

LEARNING BY EXPERIENCE

There can be no doubt that the investigation into the Halifax disaster will go much deeper than to merely fix the relative responsibility of the pilot of the Mont Blanc and the pilot of the Imo, or determine whether a German agent was at the bottom of it. What is of vastly more importance is to learn why benzol and T.N.T. were carried in a single cargo. That is a point which is being discussed, and nobody has yet appeared to explain why such a dangerous method was adopted. Had the cargo of the Mont Blanc been composed entirely of benzol or entirely of explosives the disaster could not have occurred. The inference is that the Allies do not make a proper inspection of their cargoes; that they are taking chances, either because they are without proper experts or for the sake of speed in delivery. The important thing now is to not punish those responsible for the disaster, but to take precautions that it can never be repeated.

It is suggested that the Allies' knowledge of chemistry has not been properly mobilized; that the practical chemists have been side-tracked in favor of those whose knowledge has been obtained from text-books, printed in Germany for the most part. In discussing this matter a short time ago the Montreal Scientific said that French army chemists and chemical engineers have not received the rank to which they are entitled. Their position, in fact, is below that of pharmacists. The Montreal says that if vessels of the Mont Blanc class had on board chemists with the rank of officers there would be a different system of inspection of cargoes, and such accidents as that at Halifax would be impossible.

LIBELLING IS DANGEROUS

Libelling and derisive references to newspapers on the part of would-be politicians and near-statesmen is going to be less popular throughout the length and breadth of Canada than it has been in the past. It is a form of "indoor sport" that is not without an element of danger, though this is not generally known. The Toronto Globe is leading off in an action for libel which is likely to provide convincing proof that the law which provides protection for the individual also assures newspapers from gross slanders and lying attacks.

A former member of the Ontario Legislature, Mr. J. H. Dickenson, an ardent supporter of Laurier, made charges that the Globe had been "bought" in plain words. The Globe's London Liberal paper had repudiated Laurier and denounced his campaign. Other candidates of similar kidney have made similar charges, but usually in a veiled manner. Mr. Lemieux talks about "the corrupted press" and Hartley Dewar and Sir Allen Aylesworth frequently intimate with the lawyer's carelessness that Unionist or other advertising is sufficient to transform the editorial opinions of a paper. They have sought to mislead the electors on this point, as others have done in the Brandon Federal constituency, knowing that their statements and implications are false.

There is not a newspaper in Canada but has suffered from the lying and slanderous statements of individuals who intimate that the opinions of journalists are saleable commodities—like calves' brains or pickled hocks. The newspapers and newspapermen have been slow to wrath and, also life is much too short to spend valuable time in chasing a falsifier or to nail a lie. However, there comes a time when patience and slowness to strike is interpreted as weakness and then vigorous action is necessary and the Globe is one newspaper that has evidently decided that this time has arrived. Every other newspaper in Canada sits in the reserved seats, eagerly attentive, and filled with cheerful enthusiasm for the contest.

The action taken by the Toronto Globe indicates that Canadian newspapers have reached the conclusion that their practice of receiving libellous knocks with an indifferent shrug, is being misconstrued and that vigorous action is necessary.

THE SPOILT CHILD

Quebec in the role of Peck's Bad Boy is annoying Canada. This is no new thing, but the accumulation and recent misdeeds are exhausting the patience of the rest of Canada which though inclined to be lenient has recognized the serious mischief that lies within the range of possibilities. The recent election drew the attention of all Canada to what is going on among the French-Canadians lived in Quebec and the obstreperous elements so much in evidence apparently will not subside until Canada assumes the role of the angry, though just parent, and teaches them a salutary lesson.

Piqued by their failure to impose their will on English-speaking Canada, certain elements in Quebec are now talking of withdrawing from the Dominion. They are saying, with your leave, but that, we take it, is for consumption in other provinces than Que-

THE RETAILER AND FOOD CONTROLLER

J. H. Currie, Secretary Manitoba Board Retail Merchants Association of Canada.

A general appeal is being made to all classes of citizens in Canada by the Food Controller assisted by the Provincial committees for united action in:

- (1) The production of more food.
- (2) The consumption of less of the food so greatly needed by the Allied armies such as wheat, flour, beef and bacon.
- (3) Reducing the wastage of food.
- (4) The elimination of all unnecessary services, thus releasing men for more important work or enlistment, and for greater economy throughout the length and breadth of Canada thus conserving our substance to satisfy the burden which is being laid upon us.

The men who are at the front in the trenches, fighting for the liberty and freedom of Canada, must be fed. Our Allies who are looking to us for their supplies must not be disappointed. Everything should be done that co-operation and intelligent effort can accomplish to assist in every way possible those appointed to fulfil this great and worthy task. It is true, some mistakes have been made. The Food Controller has been charged with inactivity by many because he did not regulate the prices of everything. To fix the prices of all products would be a huge undertaking, but reasonable regulation and supervision will have a desirable effect. It would be better if those who are so bitter in their denunciation of what has been done and what has not been done if they were to become sympathetic helpers and contributors in the production and conservation of food.

What Can Be Done by Retailers. A great many stores have watched closely the various items entering into the cost of store operation otherwise known as overhead expense. It is commonly agreed that the cost of deliveries might be reduced considerably through the cheerful response and co-operation of the public. In cities, a saving could be effected by reducing the number of deliveries to one delivery over each route or part thereof per day. Each wagon could leave the store often enough to cover the territory but no section of the territory should be gone over more than

once. Customers should be given the reasons for making changes in a delivery service, the object being to conserve man-power and capital for the defense of the country. When an employee leaves to join the fighting forces, an effort should be made to get on with the staff that is left.

In small or medium sized towns a co-operative delivery system could be installed to advantage, providing there is sufficient harmony among the merchants. A splendid example of a successful delivery system is to be found in the progressive town of Souris where there exists a very fine spirit among the members of the retail trade. It is to their credit that they have led the way in this movement in the Province of Manitoba.

In addition to the practical changes which might be made in existing delivery systems, the delivery service might also be reduced by restricting the free delivery of small purchases and the elimination of special deliveries. Furthermore, the acceptance of returned goods should be reduced to an absolute minimum. There is such urgent need for men and equipment in other work that these wasteful methods of doing business should be discontinued in so far as it is possible.

The success which will attend the efforts of the retail merchants of Manitoba in introducing new policies into their business will be determined largely by the co-operation and sympathy accorded these adjustments by customers. Each business practice should be studied with a view to saving time and motions as carefully as we would money and materials. There should be no town or city of which its merchants should say "we tried to put our deliveries on a common sense basis but our customers refused to think ahead, refused to carry their small packages, refused to give up their special deliveries and their goods on approval." Let us co-operate, contribute, conserve for Canada. "Save Food and Help Win the War." The officers and members of the Manitoba Board of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, extend to the people of Manitoba Christmas Greetings, Peace and Goodwill for the New Year.

PEASANT CONGRESS AGAINST BOLSHEVIKI

New York, Dec. 24.—A cablegram saying that the peasant congress, in Russia adopted a resolution protesting against the policy of the Bolsheviks in arresting members of the constituent assembly was received here by the Jewish Daily Forward from its Petrograd correspondent. The message reads:

"A very important sitting of the congress was held. Premier Lenin, in person, addressed the congress, and in a lengthy speech defended the attitude of the Bolsheviks toward the constituent assembly. He justified the arrest of the members of the assembly and said that the labor council ought to be considered the highest authority."

Notwithstanding Lenin's presence, the congress passed a resolution protesting against the policy of the Bolsheviks with a vote of 360 to 321.

ROAD TO RICE LAKE

Winnipeg, Dec. 24.—Government aid of \$7,500 was voted in council to the construction of a heavy traffic road between a point on the Winnipeg river near Fort Alexandra to the Rice Lake mining district, a distance of forty miles. The whole cost of the road will be \$12,000.

PROVINCIAL BYE-LAW ELECTION

WINNIPEG JAN. 15TH
Winnipeg, Dec. 24.—The provincial bye-election in North Winnipeg, Seat B, will be held on Jan. 15th, 1913; nominations will take place on January 8th.

The writ was issued Saturday at the instance of Speaker Baird, and the Provincial Cabinet, following an interview which took place between the Premier and a committee representing the Unionists of North Winnipeg. The committee consisted of R. N. Lowery, M.L.A. for North Winnipeg, Seat A; E. A. Cohen, barrister, and E. J. Reynolds, vice-president of the old North Winnipeg Conservative Association.

Robert F. Jacobs will be the Unionist candidate.

C. Fred Mount is named in the writ as returning officer.

DEATH TOLL 46 IN RAILWAY

WRECK IN KENTUCKY TOWN
Shepherdsville, Ky., Dec. 21.—Last night the Louisville and Nashville passenger train No. 7, from Cincinnati to New Orleans, crashed into the rear end of the Louisville, Bardonia and Springfield accommodation train a few hundred feet south of the railroad station here. The death toll reached forty-six today. The blame for the disaster seems to hinge upon whether the fast train had been given a clear block or not.

DIVORCE APPLICATIONS

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—Mary Clay Ewart, of Winnipeg, will apply to parliament at the next session for a divorce from her husband, Alan Campbell Ewart, barrister, of Winnipeg.
Albert B. Gordon, lumber dealer, Toronto, will apply for a divorce from his wife, Edna Gertrude Gordon.

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MUNICIPALITY OF WHITEHEAD

COUNCIL MINUTES

Upon the occasion of his retirement from the Council Board after representing Ward Four continuously for over thirty years, Councillor David Loney of Kemnay was presented with a case of pipes and tobacco at the meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Whitehead. The presentation was made at the close of the meeting, on behalf of the Council Board, by Reeve R. W. Philp, who in a few well chosen words expressed the esteem in which the retiring councillor is held by the members of the Board. Councillor Loney responded suitably.

The business conducted at the meeting was as follows:
Motion: That this municipality give a grant of \$250 to the Halifax Relief Fund.—Carried.

That the Council considers that the Assiniboine River should be the Northern boundary of the Municipal District of Whitehead.—Carried.

That we grant Reeve Philp the sum of \$75 for his services for 1912.—Carried.

That the account of D. Reynolds at Brandon General Hospital be paid.—Carried.

That the following communications be filed: Commissioner of Finance, Toronto, Geo. Walton, C. Birkett, J. S. Thompson, A. H. Butler, J. N. McLean.—Carried.

By-laws 655 and 656 were given their several readings and passed. Councillors' Indemnity and Mileage, Road Commissioners' and Election expenses, accounts amounting to \$380, were ordered paid.

Misses Polly and Victoria Blackburn, of Winnipeg, are spending their Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Blackburn, 455 Eleventh street.

LOST AND FOUND

LOST—ONE RED AND WHITE COW with red calf; also another red calf, and one black and white heifer about 10 months old. Finder will be rewarded by notifying Alex. Kabe, Alexander, Phone 28 r. 5. 27

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SNAP FOR QUICK SALE—308 acres 4 miles from Brandon post office. All broken; fair buildings; good water; fenced, cross fenced. Price only \$11,000; \$2,000 cash, balance easy terms. Apply to Geo. Forbes, 115 8th St., phones 1524, 956. 27

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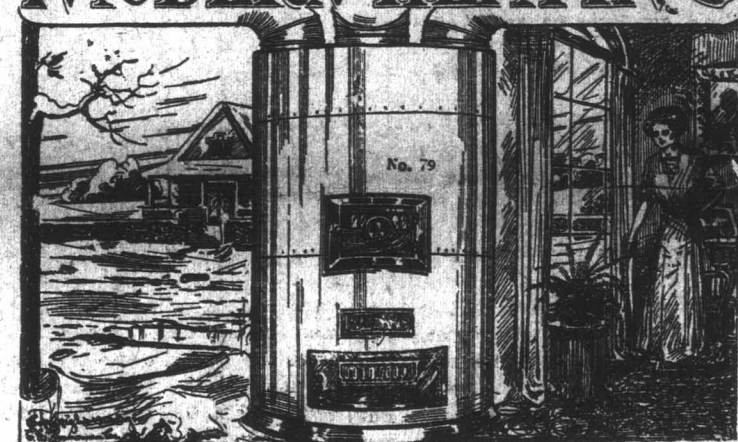
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happy one to those whose
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