

WEEKLY SUN

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1917

CURRIE NOT RETIRING

Mischievous, slender, 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 au-
 thorities or with his subordinates. Also
 that the fact that he was reckless
 of his men is entirely without
 foundation, that it is directly con-
 trary 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 Govern-
 ment of which he is the head, are
 so much wasted effort so far as Can-
 ada is concerned. The Union Govern-
 ment 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 doc-
 trine of terrorism and that might is
 right.

Though the Kaiser has met check
 in Canada he is calculating on the ef-
 fects 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
 until they well know they would de-
 cline if they could ascertain the facts.
 Then there is the effect of the Bol-
 sheviki in Russia, the Roumanians,
 and the pacifists and weak-kneed in
 Britain, America and Australia.

Late reports from Australia indicate
 that the Bolshewiki do not all dwell
 in Russia, but it is noted that there
 will be a sufficient force by the Aus-
 tralian soldiers to swing that country
 into line for compulsory military ser-
 vice 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 Gov-
 ernment 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 E. Whidden, should not
 disband or disintegrate. The com-
 mittee, which is composed of men of
 trusts and suspicions were dissipated
 and engagement in a common task
 made fast friends of men who pre-
 viously regarded each other with
 aversion and positive dislike.
 There are many problems the solv-
 ing 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 cur-
 rents and cross-currents which ham-
 per 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 ser-
 vice presents itself. Shall we wilfully
 or carelessly turn our backs upon it?
 The highest type of citizenship, ren-
 dered this community a service by
 their splendid activities and now that
 the immediate business in hand has
 been disposed of, should turn at-
 tention to other problems which are
 almost as important if less spectac-
 ular.

The protracted struggle revealed
 the workers to each other. It em-
 phasized 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 Gov-
 ernment 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 re-
 fused to acquiesce in the request for
 a further extension of the life of the
 Canadian Parliament, he forced an
 election. His action was bitterly re-
 sented 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 pro-
 vide two 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 busi-
 ness 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 vig-
 orous 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 adam-
 ant. 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 in-
 action 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 Can-
 ada 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 free-
 dom. 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 candi-
 dates in Western Canada and the lit-
 tle-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 Brit-
 ish Empire and false to civilization
 and today they are marked men. They
 will be regarded 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 dis-
 credit with all the soldiers who re-
 turn, and their families and friends.
 He is a rash man who having publicly
 declared himself as supporting Laurier
 for election to any public office. Ap-
 pearance as such a candidate will in-
 vite 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 in-
 vestigation 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 ben-
 zol or entirely of explosives the disas-
 ter could not have occurred. The in-
 ference is that the Allies do not make
 a proper inspection of their cargoes;
 that they are taking chances, either
 because they are without proper ex-
 perts or for the sake of speed in
 delivery. The important thing now is
 not to 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 chem-
 ical 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.

LABELLING IS DANGEROUS

Labelling 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 printed
 in the Globe's Toronto Liberal
 paper and repudiated Laurier and
 condemned his campaign. Other can-
 didates 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 fre-
 quently 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 Can-
 ada but has suffered from the lying
 and slanderous statements of indi-
 viduals who intimate that the opin-
 ions of journalists are saleable com-
 modities—like calves' brains or pick-
 led hocks. The newspapers and news-
 papermen 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 news-
 papers have reached the conclusion
 that their practice of receiving libel-
 ous knocks with an indifferent shrug,
 is being misconstrued and that vigor-
 ous 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 misdemeanors 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 possi-
 bilities. The recent election drew the at-
 tention of all Canada to what is going
 on among the French-Canadians lived
 in Quebec and the obstreperous ele-
 ments 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 Can-
 ada, 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 con-
 sumption in other provinces than Que-

THE RETAILER AND FOOD CONTROLLER

J. H. Curie, 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 Pro-
 vincial 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 fulfill this great and worthy task. It is true, some mistakes have been made. The Food Controller has been charged with in-activity 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 other- wise known as overhead expense. It is commonly agreed that the cost of deliveries might be reduced consider- ably 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 ter- ritory should be gone over more than

once. Customers should be given the reasons for making changes in a de- livery service, the object being to con- serve man-power and capital for the defense of the country. When an em- ployee leaves to join the fighting force, 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 re- tail 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 de- livery systems, the delivery service might also be reduced by restricting the free delivery of small purchases and the elimination of special deliv- eries. Furthermore, the acceptance of returned goods should be reduced to an absolute minimum. There is such urgent need for men and equip- ment in other work that these waste- ful methods of doing business should be discontinued in so far as it is possi- ble.

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 sym- pathy accorded these adjustments by customers. Each business practice should be studied with a view to sav- ing 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-oper- ate, contribute, conserve for Canada. "Save Food and Help Win the War." The officers and members of the Manitoba Board of the Retail Mer- chants' 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 Bolsheviki in arresting members of the constituent assembly was received here by the Jewish Daily Forward from its Petro- grad correspondent. The message reads:

"A very important sitting of the congress was held. Premier Lenine, in person, addressed the congress, and in a lengthy speech defended the at- titude of the Bolsheviki 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 author- ity."

Notwithstanding Lenine's presence, the congress passed a resolution pro- testing against the policy of the Bolsheviki 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, 1918; nominations will take place on Jan- uary 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 repre- senting the Unionists of North Win- nipeg. The committee consisted of R. N. Lowery, M.L.A. for North Win- nipeg, 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 Union- ist 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 Nash- ville passenger train No. 7, from Cin- cinnati to New Orleans, crashed into the rear end of the Louisville, Bard- ston 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.

WANTED TO HEAR FROM OWNER

WANTED TO HEAR FROM OWNER of good farm for sale. State cash price, full description, D. F. Bush, Minneapolis, Minn. 124

MUNICIPALITY OF WHITEHEAD COUNCIL MINUTES

Upon the occasion of his retire- ment from the Council Board after representing Ward Four continuously for over thirty years, Councillor David Loney of Kenney was presented with a case of pipes and tobacco at the meeting of Council of the Rural Municipality of Whitehead. The presenta- tion 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 council- or is held by the members of the Board. Councillor Loney responded suitably.

The business conducted at the meet- ing 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 Dis- trict of Whitehead.—Carried.

That we grant Reeve Philp the sum of \$75 for his services for 1917.—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 ex- penses, accounts amounting to \$380, were ordered paid.

Misses Polly and Victoria Black- burn, 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

FARM LANDS

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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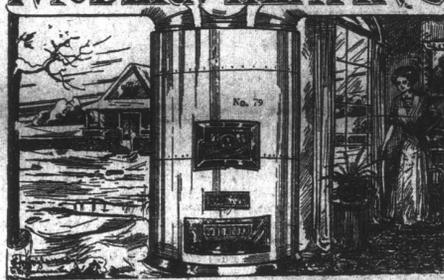
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 a happy one to you and a
 happy one to those whose
 happiness depends on you.

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