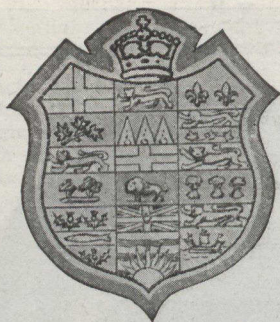


THE CANADIAN COURIER



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Good Cheer

ALL the events of the past few weeks in connection with the Great War have tended to increase our optimism. The entry of Bulgaria cleared the air in the Balkans and lets us know "where we are at." It has counterbalancing advantages in turning an antagonistic neutral into an enemy. Further, Russia will now make even greater efforts to bring in Roumania. In this they will be helped materially by the increasing activity of the British submarine in the Baltic and a consequent lessening of German activity in the district around Riga.

One Dollar a Head

SHOULD you decide to give to the Canadian Patriotic Fund, you will, of course, first ascertain your share. If you are the head of a family, you will figure that you must give for every member of it, including servants. If you have a large body of employees who are not earning enough to enable them to pay their per capita share, you should take it out of the business profits.

Having decided that, you will then proceed to ask, "How Much a Head?" The answer is ready to hand. In the year ending August 31st, 1915, the gifts to the Patriotic Fund amounted to \$5,350,000, or 70 cents per capita. The estimated requirements for the year commencing September 1st, 1915, are \$7,500,000, or one dollar per head.

With these facts in your possession, you may reckon it up for yourself.

The Truce is Kept

SOME people feared that the political truce might be broken when a new Dominion Cabinet Minister, Mr. Patenaude, had to be elected in a Quebec constituency. A political conflict even in one constituency might light a fire which might slowly enlarge until the whole Dominion was involved. The decision rested on Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and that shrewd politician decided that the new Minister should not be opposed by a Liberal candidate. Thus Mr. Patenaude takes his seat by acclamation, and the truce is not broken.

Some politicians and some party journals on each side are earnestly endeavouring to make that truce look like a battered tomato can, but so far their efforts have been unsuccessful. The Montreal Star gives most of the credit to Sir Wilfrid Laurier for parrying the blows aimed at this truce, but Sir Robert Borden is entitled to at least equal praise.

Bars in Ontario

BECAUSE the soldiers in training, having more money and friends than usual, are liable to over-drink, the Ontario Government will close the bars at eight o'clock. This is a compromise measure, as most of our reform measures are now-a-days, and it will affect "personal liberty" very slightly. Why clubs should be exempt from the restriction is not clear. Are we to understand that club members have less money and fewer friends than usual?

The Central License Board very wisely left the decision to the Government, and its chairman and vice-chairman have had nothing to say about the new rule. In spite of this unusual silence, it is reported that the Board favoured seven o'clock closing. The whole discussion of the question of hours has a humorous side of it, since all the parties get excited over what is only a small feature of a big question. Everybody is trying to deceive himself and look

serious, when, as a matter of fact, both the "wets" and the "drys" are avoiding the main issue.

So far as the soldiers are concerned, eight o'clock closing will make little difference. The real reform would be the establishment of "wet" canteens under military control.

Why He Came

PROFESSOR MUENSTERBERG, of Harvard, is disputing with some critics as to why the Germans came to America. The Professor maintains that they had the same reason as the Americans who recently came into Canada—because there are less economic difficulties in making a living in an uncrowded country. He denies that either the Germans in the United States or the Americans in Canada are devoted missionaries seeking to produce conditions they knew at home.

With this view most Canadians will agree. And for this reason, the Germans should become good Americans, and the Americans should become good Canadians. Unfortunately, some of the Germans in the United States do not take this view and are quite disloyal.

Irresponsible Collectors

EVERY man or woman who has social ambitions and desires to get some easy advertising is starting a "Fund" of some kind. The latest in Toronto is one for aviators—the wisdom of which may be questioned. There have been a number of others equally unwise.

The Militia Department has tried to stop a lot of these ambulance funds, kitchen funds, machine-gun

60,000 MORE

Latest information from Ottawa indicates that Canada will need 60,000 more recruits immediately. Lord Kitchener is calling for three million more men, and Canada must do its share. Let every recruiting officer get busy.

funds, tobacco funds, Christmas-gift funds, and so on. Not that the objects were bad, but that the necessity was doubtful.

The Courier has taken the attitude that the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross have the first claim. After having given freely to these, a man is entitled to do as he pleases. If he wants to buy machine guns or tobacco for soldiers, he has a perfect right to do so. But there is no urgent reason why he should, unless he finds it a real pleasure.

A certain Masonic Lodge in Toronto contributes a certain sum each month to buy tobacco for the Toronto soldiers in France. The members do not need to do it. The soldiers are well able to buy their own tobacco. But it pleases them to do this, and the gifts are sure to be politely received.

But let there be a clear understanding in the public mind. There is no obligation to contribute to any but the two great funds mentioned. The gifts to soldiers' comforts leagues, to Y. M. C. A. entertainment camps, to hospital supplies not sent through the

Red Cross, to tobacco funds and so on, are purely voluntary and are intended to provide opportunities for those who take pleasure in doing a little more than they are under obligation to do.

Voluntary Giving

A CORRESPONDENT in Cochrane sends a clipping from a local paper, the "Clay Belt," in which the opinion is advanced that the Patriotic Fund should be based on taxation and not on voluntary contributions. Our correspondent would like our views on this point.

Apparently the editor of the "Clay Belt" has two reasons in his mind to support his opinion. He thinks taxation would be more equal in its burden, because all would then contribute in proportion. His second reason is that those who share in the Patriotic Fund are being degraded by charity.

Both of these "reasons" are open to argument. Taxes are seldom equitable. In any system of taxation yet devised there are some who escape. This is especially true of an income tax which the editor of the "Clay Belt" seems to favour. The man with the small ascertainable income pays more in proportion than the man with the large, unascertainable income. Moreover, an income tax is a costly tax to collect, especially in a country of distances.

On the other hand, there is much to be said for voluntary giving. It does the people who give more good to contribute a hundred dollars voluntarily than to pay a hundred dollars in taxes. There is something sublime in the sacrifices which people are making in order to give to the Patriotic Fund and the Red Cross. Many are going so far as to give, not only of their income, but of their capital.

As to the charity in the matter, there is some force in the argument of the editor of the "Clay Belt." Yet it is a scientific charity, where the families who draw from it are receiving their apportionments on a basis of merit. This is the kind of charity a man receives when he goes to a general hospital supported partly by public funds and partly by voluntary contributions. It is the kind of charity which he accepts when he sends his son to the university founded by the State or by public benefactions. As such, it is a form of charity which is not inconsistent with one's independence.

Germany is a country where the State has organized everything and where the taxes even contribute to insurance against unemployment and old-age pensions. Germany made too much of the State, until finally the State grew so strong that the people became its slaves. Great Britain, and the nations that have shared her institutions, has tried to avoid this by leaving some functions to voluntary effort and individual initiative. The citizen who becomes an automaton, living by rules which the State lays down for him, is not a citizen in the best sense of the term.

When government responsibility shall end and when individual responsibility shall begin must always be an open question. The editor of the "Clay Belt" has his ideas, but they are not those of the majority of British people. The Patriotic Fund is not a government fund, but since it is managed by men closely in touch with the Government, its management may be expected to be scientific, economical and national.

WONDERFUL PATRIOTISM IN ALBERTA



Alberta has contributed more soldiers and more enthusiasm in this great struggle than any other province in Canada. This striking picture was taken at Calgary on October 4th, when the citizens turned out to bid farewell to the 12th Mounted Rifles.

Photograph by W. J. Oliver.