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The Purchase of Beaumont Hamel.

Women Meet in Casino--Intensely Interesting Addresses.

At a meeting of the women of St. John's held in the Casino Theatre yesterday afternoon, the addresses given by the various speakers were listened to with rapt attention. Mrs. Browning, convenor of the meeting, after a few preliminary remarks, welcomed Lady Harris who honored the meeting with her patronage and who with her daughter was present, expressing thereby her interest in and sympathy with the movement. Continuing, Mrs. Browning said: "We have met to discuss and show our interest in a matter which must be dear to every woman's heart, to every woman in Newfoundland—the sacred care of the last resting place of so many of our gallant soldiers. You may ask why we should specially purchase the field of Beaumont-Hamel, when our boys fell on so many fields in France. It is for two reasons: one, because this was the scene of the greatest sacrifice in France; the second, because under the stress of battle so many of our dead were unable to be buried. There they lay and there they lie still. You will remember that some of our wounded were not brought in for seven days, and then their rescue was always fraught with so much danger. What Ypres is to the Canadians—what Verdun is to the French, that Beaumont-Hamel is to the Newfoundlanders, a special graveyard of numbers of their noblest men. Each of the Allies has planned to take over some special portion of France so sacred to them in the same way. It is their intention to encircle them with the trees peculiar to each individual country, and in the centre raise a monument to the memory and honor of the fallen, and worthy of them. It is hard for France to part with so much of her land; a well-populated country where land is so precious—but she has agreed. And now it is our proud privilege as a country and as individuals, each one to share in the purchase of this portion of Newfoundland in France, for wherever a Newfoundland lies buried that spot is for ever Newfoundland. We are greatly honored this afternoon by having the help and support of three of our veterans, men who going with the first 500, still, in spite of sickness and wounds were able to serve their country, we may say, till the end."

Mr. Col. Bernard, M.C., C. de G., was called to the platform, and said in part: "Ladies, I am asked to address you on a subject dear to the heart, but which causes sadness, but at the same time gives us a glow of pride. A subject which will be handed down from generation to generation—Beaumont-Hamel. For fourteen months before Beaumont-Hamel, I was with the force. I knew the men;

I knew them in their marches, in Egypt where they camped on the burning desert, at Gallipoli where they stood waist deep in icy water with their hands and feet frozen." He briefly outlined the intensive training the men underwent previous to that fatal day, July 1st, at Beaumont-Hamel, and the record they made (unequalled in the war). He gave his support to the movement and asked the women to aid in the purchase of that field consecrated by the blood of our heroes.

Major Butler, D.S.O., M.C., next described the field of battle, a plan of which was shown on the screen. He told of events previous to and on the morning of July 1st; of the work of rescuing the wounded and the burying of the dead. How the small party of 70 men continued for three days and nights at this work, how the gaps in the wire entanglements were filled with dead; how the Germans trained their machine guns on a hillock where the wounded had crawled for shelter, or to die.

At the conclusion of Major Butler's address, Miss Keegan, in her inimitable manner, gave a pathetic recitation, "A Woman's Part," which brought tears to the eyes of many in the audience.

Capt. Munns, M.C., speaking next, described the preparations for the attack, the St. John's Road, the hours previous to zero, the blowing up of the tunnel bored after 17 months of unremitting labor and toil under the German trench, the sending off of the last officer who was never more heard of. He told of his visit to this land eleven months afterwards in company with Major Nangle, and the finding of relics of his comrades. He urged his hearers not to let this sacred spot go from us.

Lady Harris spoke briefly, thanking the speakers for their attendance and expressing her desire to co-operate in the movement.

Mrs. Browning, in closing, thanked the speakers for their lucid descriptions, and asked the women present to speak to their friends and urge them to help; to write to the outposts for their support and sympathy. "The purchase of this sacred spot is not a duty, it is a privilege. It is not for a government or individual to buy," concluded the speaker.

On next Wednesday (the anniversary of the Battle of Monchy), a house to house collection for funds would be taken up; all should contribute, and not over \$1.00 will be received from one individual. After an appeal to the women to smooth the pathway of the men who had returned, the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Curliana.

The general meeting of the St. John's Curling Association will be held on Tuesday evening in the Curlers' Parlour, Curling Rink, when the work for the past season will be reviewed, the President's report submitted, and the accounts presented to the Association. After the business has been disposed of the trophies won during the year will be presented by Honorary President H. W. L. Messurier, C.M.G. This is the final meeting of the Association for this year. The Curling Association is a strong institution in Newfoundland today, with a membership of some two hundred and thirty members. The Association has had many visitors from Canada, United States and other countries. The games this season were well contested, the new mem-

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N.I.W.A. Meeting.

REORGANIZATION DISCUSSED.

At the regular quarterly meeting of the N. I. W. A., held last night, the matter of the reorganization of the Association along the lines of the American Federation of Labor, was discussed. Mr. A. E. Earle, the Financial Secretary, was appointed to the Consumers' League, which is

being instituted by the Food Control Board. Representatives of the various unions and all locals of the N. I. W. A. will be in the League, and submit evidence of profiteering to the Board. The usual reports were presented and adopted, after which the meeting closed.

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