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COMPANIONSHIP IS BIG THING OF WAR, SAYS MAJOR NIVEN

Accounts Much for British Success, Officer Says.

"I attribute any measure of success I have attained in my army career to the companionship of the men with whom had the honor to serve in the Princess Patricias," said Major Hugh Niven, D. S. O., M.C., speaking to members of the High School Club in the Y. M. C. A. last night.

Companionship, he declared, was one of the biggest things of the war, and accounted for much of the British success. Through association with men of high calibre mediocre soldiers became first class fighting men and would do deeds of which they never dreamed before coming in contact with their new companions.

The fame of the Princess Pats had been won largely through the spirit of companionship in the ranks. Although 15,000 men and 1,000 officers had served in that world-famous unit, the spirit still existed. Because of it men would do for others things which they would never attempt to do for themselves.

A Hot Corner.

To illustrate this, Major Niven told the story of the fight two and a half years ago, in which every officer but himself fell, and he was in command of the regiment for a short space of time. Only 150 men were living when orders were given to vacate the trenches. He led the men back to billets, most of them more or less crazy, as a result of the terrific shell fire which they had undergone. The following day many of the men were still affected; few would touch food when it was set before them, and most of them were acting like children. General Snow, in command of the British divisions to which the "Pats" were attached, came to Major Niven. "Are your men fit for another 'go?'" he asked.

The major hesitated to answer the question and asked for fuller information. He was told that a rifle brigade by the side of which his unit had camped for several months was in a tight corner near Hooge and had not been relieved for three days. The remaining Pats were wanted to reinforce them.

Men Fall In.

The regiment was given instructions to fall in. The situation was explained to the soldiers, and within a few hours men whose nerves had been so badly affected that they would not touch their own food were fully equipped and prepared to go to the rescue of their comrades.

Loaded down with their equipment and rations for three days, because there was little hope for relief, the gallant little band set out on a nine-mile tramp to the trenches. As they passed Gen. Snow he took off his hat to honor the men who, although they had done so much, were still willing to do more.

Interest was added to Major Niven's inspiring address by his kind offer to answer any questions relative to the war, which he did without disclosing military secrets. Members of the club took full advantage of this, and many hazy notions concerning the front and the men who serve there were cleared up.

WORK WANTED FOR RETURNED SOLDIERS; LISTS TO BE SENT

Provincial Soldiers' Aid To Take Up Question.

Ways and means of obtaining suitable employment for returned soldiers formed the chief topic of discussion at a meeting of the Soldiers' Aid Commission Friday afternoon. Lieut. W. D. Read, inspector of branches for the commission, and Kenneth McKay of St. Thomas, a member of the Provincial Commission, were present.

Employment was, it was stated, hard to obtain at the present time in some lines owing to the fact that many plants were running only on part time, and also that many of the munition plants were not running at full strength owing to changes in shell orders.

It was decided that lists of men and the necessary particulars about them should be sent to the provincial headquarters of the commission in Toronto, through which it might be possible to find employment for unmarried men or others who would go elsewhere in Ontario to work.

The question of the local office of the commission co-operating with the local office of the Ontario Government employment bureau was also taken up, and it was decided that Lieut. Read should inquire into the matter at the headquarters of the employment branch in Toronto.

The matter of advancing money in cases of need was also discussed, and the plan of having the branch offices of the commission throughout the district submit their applications to the district office here for approval was approved.

LARGE MASONIC FUNERAL FOR P. E. WATTERWORTH

London Businessman Was Widely Known in Glencoe Vicinity.

[Special to The Advertiser.]

GLENCOE, Jan. 4.—The funeral of P. E. Watterworth which took place yesterday to Oakland Cemetery was one of the largest ever seen in Glencoe.

Mr. Watterworth, who died in London on December 31, was widely known in Glencoe and vicinity, having been born at Woodgreen near here. He lived a great portion of his life in Glencoe until thirteen years ago, when, with his family, he moved to the West. Returning East after two years he resided in Chatham and Stratford for brief periods, then moved to London.

Most of his recent business activity was with the International Harvester Company, but for the past two years he had been representing the Maxwell-Chalmers Motor Company.

The funeral was held from the home of H. Lumley, brother-in-law of Mr. Watterworth, at 1:30. The service at the house was attended by a large assembly of personal friends of the family. A long cortege followed the remains to the cemetery, where the burial service was delivered by Rev. Mr. Lloyd, formerly pastor of Chalmers Church, London. The Masons had charge of the service. Mr. Watterworth having been a member of Lorne Lodge, No. 282.

The floral tributes were many and beautiful and included: Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Richards, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Welsh, wreath; Margaret Welsh, spray; Mrs. S. Watterworth and Hazel, wreath; Maxwell & Chalmers, Canadian staff, wreath; Miss Margaret Watterworth, spray; Mr. L. Logie, wreath; Mr. A. P. Watterworth, spray; Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Lumley, spray; Mrs. F. B. and J. C. Watterworth, pillow; Miss Edna Adams and Jack Mitchell, spray; Mr. and Mrs. H. Lumley, wreath; Mrs. L. Clue, wreath; Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Davidson, spray; Glencoe Lodge, No. 282, A., F. & A. M., wreath; Victory Camp, London, W. O. W., spray.

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NATION ASLEEP IN REGARD TO CHILD WELFARE

Ignorance of Truth Is Fatal To Boys and Girls, Says Lecturer.

UNION MOTHERS' MEETING

Infant Mortality in London Averages Twenty Per Cent.

"The Child's Right To Be in Heaven" was the subject of an interesting talk given at the Union Mothers' Club meeting held in the Lord Roberts school last evening. W. L. Clark, a prominent Canadian lecturer on the subject of the physical and moral welfare of the child, was the speaker. Taking as his text the Scripture words, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, ye did it unto Me," he pointed out how the responsibility for the physical and moral welfare of the child lay at the door of the fathers and mothers of the land, and not only the welfare of their own children, but through the schools and churches, the welfare of all children.

Mr. Clark has a humorous and also a very beautiful way of speaking, and brings home his truths by the use of metaphors, and holds the attention of his audience by his comic-serious expressions. A Northern Spy apple and an American Beauty rose were a part of the paraphernalia which he had with him to illustrate his points. He told the tale of how the wild rose seedling was taken and converted into the beautiful American Beauty, and how the old rusty seedling appling became the splendid Northern Spy.

Complied With Rules.

"How did the rose grower get the American Beauty and how did the nurserymen procure the Northern Spy?" asked the speaker. "They will tell you, because they both complied with all the rules governing roses or apples. Yet when I ask a father or mother what kind of a man or woman their boy or girl is going to become, they say they don't know. I say they ought to know just as the rose grower ought to know and must know. Parents are not economists, where their children are concerned. They sow the wind and reap the whirlwind. Here they say they do not know, but when they meet Him face to face they will know. They will know when they see millions of little souls dying.

"I have seen a helpless babe in an incubator with its army of nurses and physicians behind it doing all they can to preserve life, and yet at the same time I see thousands of boys and girls up to ten years of age, on the streets with no one to care for them.

Care in Streets.

"There should be more care in the streets, and then there need not be so much care in the incubator. During one year there were 10,000 youngsters buried in Ontario, and a quarter of a million in the United States, and yet God never intended that one of them should sleep, not one. Do you think a rose grower or a nurseryman wants his plants to die? No, not one. A rose grower takes thousands of cuttings and loses hardly one. He knows the natural outlines of the development of the rose, and so saves his roses. Yet we do not teach our children in Ontario the natural outlines of their development, and we lose them.

"What would you think if a farmer, who on taking you out to view his stock, would say: 'This is my little pig, and it wears glasses. This is my little calf, and it has false teeth, and this is my little colt, and it wears a wig'? And yet what do we have to say about our children? If our God can make a little pig, calf and colt grow perfectly, he can make a little child go without glasses, false teeth and wigs, and if he can't, I am done with out God."

Moral Conditions.

In speaking on the moral condition of young people today, Mr. Clark declared that ignorance and silence had put the nation where it is today.

"In the schools and in the home we are not taught the truth," said the speaker.

"In Canada there are one million fathers and one million mothers, and yet not one in a hundred have ever said anything to their boys and girls about their lives and their development. If the rose man knew nothing of the development of the flower, he would go out of business, and if we keep on the way we have been going you see where the human race will go. Our sons and daughters, two million strong in Canada and thirty million strong in the United States, just lack the truth. They start out to build homes for themselves and never a word is said. Yet there is a great army of physicians, the very finest men in the world, who would talk to them, and we do not ask them. I say that in regard to boy and girl work we are asleep."

Loose Regulations.

"In 25 states of the United States there are rules forbidding the use of public comb and brush, but when the trains cross from Detroit to Windsor the porter puts out these articles and says that now he is on easy ground. We cannot bring the rosebud or the grapevine into the country unless it is fumigated, and yet the blackest devil outside of hell can come in, and perhaps he needs fumigating a million times worse than the bush. The finest mothers in the world will wipe their children's faces with the roller-towel into a coach, and a physician wouldn't do it. We pay and are punished because the Book says that what you sow you will reap.

"Oh, if I could only convince you that the great army of youth will perish if we do not help them pretty soon. I am in this business tonight because I can see more in a boy and a girl than in a rose or a chicken."

Welfare Exhibit.

Mrs. (Dr.) Hill in a few words explained the object of the baby welfare exhibit to be held in the city during the first week of February.

"In London there is no organization for the purpose of carrying on baby welfare work and perhaps London needs it more than any other city," she said. "In 1916 there were 1,196 births and before these babies were a year old 219 of them had died—one out of every five. That is the situation you had in London. Baby welfare means child welfare, and we count in this work children up to ten years of age. Many children die from some physical defect of the mother and from malnutrition. We hope to be able to send out a nurse to work on this particular part of the work. Instructing the mothers before the baby is born and seeing that the children are properly cared for after birth. If this is done we hope to save about 135 babies in London every year. Ignorance is the one big cause of baby mortality, and so we must first of all get hold of the mothers, then we can get the babies."

Baby Clinics.

"At the baby welfare exhibit, one of the big features will be the provincial exhibit. Another important part of the work will be the baby clinics, to which the mothers may bring their babies and have them examined by specialists. Records will be kept and cards sent to the parents afterwards. It is hoped that there will be a prize for every school, and also a prize for Western Ontario. There will be a special Western Ontario day, when arrangements will be made with the railroads, so that the mothers may bring in their babies, and I would like to see the mothers' clubs take these women and babies in charge for that day, providing automobiles and opening their homes. These clinics are often not very popular the first year, but by the second year the mothers begin to bring in their babies, which have been living for a year according to instructions given at the last year's exhibit. All are anxious to see their babies get first prize. Babies of all classes are expected to be at the clinics. Many mothers, who know perfectly the condition of their children, will bring them to encourage others."

Miss Anna Cockrill delighted the meeting with two solos.

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FINEST QUARTET EVER HEARD HERE IN THE "MESSIAH"

Of the many worthy presentations of Handel's "Messiah" in this city in recent years, probably no more notable one has been heard than that of Monday evening in the First Methodist Church, given by the Musical Art Society chorus, under the direction of A. D. Jordan, assisted by a quartet of soloists of rare merit, Eileen Millett Low, soprano; Lulu Laymon, contralto; Frank Mellor, tenor, and Arthur Middleton, basso.

While not so large as a year ago, the chorus gave a splendid account of itself, singing with the absolute confidence that is only achieved by a thorough knowledge of a work. Many of the same choristers have sung in the great Christmas oratorio year after year, but while this familiarity has lured complacence, it has happily not been responsible for any relaxing of vigilance or attention. From beginning to end the choruses were given with fine attention to attack, release, phrasing, enunciation, declamation and expression, and with a quality of enthusiasm that was inspiring.

The chorus, "He Hath Borne Our Griefs," was marked by particular nicety of shading.

A whole quartet of soloists, each measuring up to a high standard of vocal and artistic ability, satisfying and delighting, each in his or her own role, seems a piece of good fortune too good to be true. But it was a dream come true for the Musical Art Society and music-lovers in general who heard the "Messiah" New Year's Eve.

While the finest traditions of oratorio interpretation were fully observed so far as dignity and religious atmosphere were concerned, the soloists and all gave to their readings more of color and variety than is usual, thereby adding to the effectiveness.

Eileen Millet Low, who sang the soprano role, is possessed of a voice of exceptional purity and flexibility, bright, yet wonderfully rich and sympathetic. Her triumph of the evening was achieved in her singing of "I Know My Redeemer Liveth."

One of London's own talented daughters, Lulu Laymon, contralto, took her place with distinction with Miss Low, Frank Mellor, tenor, and Arthur Middleton, basso. London was naturally very much interested, and it must be confessed, curious, as well, to hear this well-known young singer on her first return after study in Boston with William Whitney, teacher of Christine Miller and other artists of note. Musical London was pleased to find in Miss Laymon the unaffected simplicity of manner that has always been pleasing, but with this an added poise. The study of even a few months under the noted teacher has given to her voice added roundness and flexibility and to her singing more of freedom and dramatic feeling. After her first recitative, "Behold a Virgin Shall Conceive," and air, "Thou That Tellest," she was presented with a beautiful basket of roses, a cluster of roses going to Miss Low after her first solo, the recitative, "There Were Shepherds Abiding."

Frank Mellor, tenor, proved a surprise of the evening in the beauty of the quality of his voice, liquid, appealing, perfectly placed, and in the artistic finish and style of his singing. From the opening bars of "Comfort Ye, My People," he gave the impression of being thoroughly the master of his part. The recitative and air, "Thy Rebuke Hath Broken His Heart," and "Behold and See," were sung with gripping pathos.

It is not for many a day that London has had the privilege of hearing such a bass solo as "Why Rage the Heathen," as sung by Arthur Middleton, which recalled vividly to mind his "Honor and Arms" in Sampson a number of years ago, when he sang in London on a previous occasion. Mr. Middleton was suffering last night from a very severe cold, and was consequently much handicapped. At that it was possible to obtain an idea of the great range and unusual quality of his voice, and his superb dramatic power. Even with the difficulties under which he was laboring he aroused his audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm. Apart from their solo work the four artists afforded a treat in the two bits of quarter work, "Since by Man" and "For as in Adam," which under less favorable circumstances usually enjoy the fate of being overlooked.

Mr. Jordan conducted from the organ managing his double role with his usual success.

While on the whole the solo accompaniments were given their proper secondary position, there were times when perhaps they somewhat dominated the voice of the singer.

—A. MINOR.

CORA TRACY MORRIS, FAMOUS AS SINGER, AND HER SON BILLY

Advertiser Illustrations

Mrs. Morris has been spending the Christmas holidays in London with her mother, Mrs. Tracy, Picton street, and has been good enough to let the editor of this page have the snapshot of herself and young manly son, Billy, reproduced above. Cora Tracy was born in London, and it is always a happiness for her to come back here. She has had much reason to be proud of her operatic successes, but these fade into insignificance before the honor of being the mother of such a boy as Billy. While Mrs. Cora Tracy Morris has her professional headquarters in New York, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Morris is in the American West, where Mr. Morris has his business interests. "Billy" Morris is attending the Sacred Heart school here now, where his mother was a pupil when she was a very small girl. He will remain with his grandmother, when his mother leaves for New York the middle of January to resume her professional duties.

GRACE NOTES

Miss Lulu Laymon, who sang the contralto role in the "Messiah," on New Year's eve to the satisfaction of musical critics and her many friends and admirers in London, has returned to Boston to resume study under William Whitney and in the Emerson School of Expression. Miss Laymon is appearing for the first time in recital in Boston this month, and will have as accompanist on that occasion one of the leading organists of Boston.

* * *

Thomas G. Mitcheltree is giving a talk on "Early Operatic Music" at the first recital of the new year of the Woman's Music Club in the Normal School on Wednesday afternoon next. He purposes illustrating his lecture by playing bits of the operas of Mozart, Gluck and other early composers. The works of composers of the period will constitute the program: a Beethoven trio for piano, violin and 'cello; a duo by Gluck-Reinicke; a Mozart piano solo, and Beethoven and Gluck vocal numbers. Mrs. Lyster and Miss Armstrong are conveners for the day.

* * *

F. G Killmaster, B.A., Mus. B., who gave up the position of organist and choirmaster of St. Paul's Cathedral last summer to enlist in the ranks of the A.M.C., has won three stripes and now holds the rank of sergeant. Mr. Killmaster spent his holiday leave with his family in Port Rowan.

COKE SHORTAGE CAUSES A SERIOUS SITUATION

Hardware and Metal Comments on Iron Market Phases.

An easier situation in tin has been one of the outstanding features in the ingot metal market during the week, according to the latest issue of Hardware and Metal. Big declines were recorded on the London market because of an announcement that tin would be placed on the war material list practically abolishing speculative trading and making a fixed price probable. Direct shipments of ore to the United States from the Straits Settlements will provide for that country.

A coke shortage has caused a serious situation in Canada's pigiron industry.

Numerous advances in hardware were made during the week.

The journal adds that: "Through the movement in prices at the beginning of the new year, it would seem that little hope can be held out for steadiness in market conditions during the ensuing months. Travelers for wholesale houses have again started to make their rounds, and business will now settle down to normal, following the interruption caused by the holiday season."

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