

GOVERNMENT FAILS TO SUPPLY FUNDS FOR MILITARY NEEDS

Large Portion of Financing Left to the Hazard of Private Contributors -- Expect Military to Find It "On a Tree" -- What the Government is Not Doing

(From the Toronto Star.)

The Canadian government, according to Finance Minister White, has plenty of money for war purposes; also, according to the same authority, it is the government's intention to do its full share in providing well-equipped men to fight the battles of the Empire. Why, then, does not the government implement its promises and provide the necessary funds for military purposes instead of leaving a large portion of this financing to the hazard of private contributions?

These and other similar questions are continually heard throughout the city and country, in military circles, particularly. Local military men are not of the complaining sort, neither are they of the begging persuasion, furthermore, they are prevented by King's regulations and orders, from airing their grievances in the columns of the public press. The fact remains, however, that they have real grievances and away down the root of all their troubles is the lack of government financial support.

Such has been spoken and written, "what the government has done" and it is worthy of much commendation. The task has been stupendous and the Star has not hesitated to give full credit. But the fact remains that much could be written about "what the government is not doing." Herewith are given some of the many particulars in which the government has failed and is still proving delinquent.

This article is not inspired by any desire to attack the government, but in the hope that the projection of these unsatisfactory conditions into the bright light of publicity may result in a betterment of conditions.

Disability Fund on Public.

The general public of Canada has subscribed loyally and wholeheartedly to the Red Cross, Patriotic, Machine Gun, and various other funds, and they will be called on again and again to supplement these gifts. Undoubtedly they will respond to further appeals. Now, it is stated on high authority that the government proposes to shift the responsibility of a fund to be known as the Disability Fund, also on to the general public. And this, in addition to the proposed Canadian war loan, which of course is a business proposition. In the face of these repeated appeals on the part of the government the questions are asked, where is it all going to end? What is the government going to look the situation fairly in the face and assume the responsibility which is undoubtedly theirs?

Mayor Church says that \$50,000 is needed for the support of city, home and overseas regiments. What is it needed for, and why isn't the need supplied by the government? The city recruiting depot is applying to the city authorities for a grant of \$5,000 to carry on its work. Why does not the government pay its way instead of permitting, and indeed, soliciting aid from private sources? These are questions which are agitating the public, and which require an answer.

City Volunteer Regiments.

The financial condition of city and other volunteer regiments throughout the country is a matter requiring attention. Early this year it was announced by the Militia Department that the militia would not train this season, and that the usual drill pay to the regiments would not be forthcoming. In most cases this pay, which amounts to about \$12 per man has in former years been turned over by the men to the regiments, thus providing a sufficient sum of money to finance the expenses of the regiments, upkeep of uniforms, etc. This year the city regiments, despite their instructions to disband or not to drill for the season, have done more work than for any three years in their past history, but despite the heavy expenses they have incurred, have not received one cent of government assistance. As one officer expressed it, "If we had not kept going in what kind of shape would the efforts of recruiting depots and patriotic leagues would have gone for practically nothing! Regimental bands used constantly for patriotic purposes, are equipped and maintained by officers and the regiments without aid from the government."

"We put our case to the government without result," he said. "Apparently the only way to get action is to send a deputation to headquarters. If, however, we are forced to go by that trouble and expense, all I can say is that it is not very creditable to the authorities."

Jack Field Equipment.

The equipment of regiments for overseas service is another instance where the government has shown its lack of desire to supply necessary funds. Two machine guns per regiment was the original allowance, but when the cry came from Europe: "Send us more machine guns," the general public was permitted to supply the deficiency. The government again failed to recognize its responsibility. Field kitchens for regiments on service were, and are still, recognized as most essential to the welfare of a fighting force. Does the government issue them? Not yet. The regiments are still supplied with the "dixies," an ordinary stew pan, which is useful for a bistro or a picnic party. On active service the field kitchen, costing in the neighborhood of \$500, supplies hot and nourishing food to an army on the march. The people of Canada are permitted to supply their regiments with these, but the government has so far shown no signs of filling this long-felt want. Water wagons and water bottles, both essential in camp or on a route march, are conspicuous by their absence in the Canadian militia. At Niagara camp, water bottles were not issued, while four water wagons were provided for the use of 14,000 men. "There are so many things they expect an officer to find hanging up on a tree that it gets very tiresome after a while," is the way one officer describes the situation. Other things the government does not provide are mess marquees for men or typewriters, hand instruments, and yet these things are essential to the existence of the regiments."

The manner in which the government has handled the question of ambulances for use at the front is a further instance of how the general public has been called on to supply a military essential. These motor vehicles have been supplied in large numbers by patriotic and philanthropic institutions and individuals. The government succeeded in purchasing

ing a number of Cadillac chassis on the American side, the bodies of the ambulances being manufactured in Canada. The government instead of rushing these much needed ambulances to the battlefield in Flanders, immediately on their completion, has been turning them over one by one as paid for to private persons or societies which desired to donate an ambulance to the cause.

No Provision for Aviators.

The manner in which prospective members of the Royal Navy Air Service, training in Canada, have been treated by the Canadian authorities is an instance of governmental side-stepping which is particularly noticeable in Toronto, owing to the fact that a large number of young Canadians are in training here. Notwithstanding the recognized value of this branch of the service to an army in the field, known as it is as "the eyes of the army," the Canadian authorities have failed to make any provision for trained aviators. Only this morning it is announced that Premier Borden has given out the statement that as the aviators are not being trained for a Canadian service, the government cannot lend them any financial assistance unless the British government asks the Canadian government to do so. Another opening for private contributions.

Now About 2,300 Men at Camp Sussex

Will Halifax Get the 64th--Sussex Soldier Wins Honor at Front

There are about 2,300 men at Camp Sussex.

Seventeen men arrived in Sussex on Thursday from Collins, and were examined for the 88th Battalion. In three instances Collins families were represented by two recruits each.

The medical examination of men desiring to enlist in the 88th began on Tuesday and up to Wednesday evening eighty had been passed by Dr. Burnett and will be signed on at once. Among the Sussex boys who passed were: Murray Gamblin, Stanley Hunter and George Chapman. Many other local men passed in the 88th will soon have "comfortable quarters." Tents are being pitched on the hill at the right flank of the 64th, and the 88th will soon have "comfortable quarters." Acting Quartermaster Percy Hising, Quartermaster Sgt. Gamblin and Lance Black and Hanson, Capt. Brooks are on duty and assisting Col. Fowler.

On Tuesday the whole battalion was given a route march of over twelve miles and the men showed splendid form. There is much spirit and enthusiasm regarding winter quarters for the 64th, but it is now said to be the general impression that Halifax will be the place. Norman Bardon, son of Frank Bardon, of Sussex, recently wounded, has made a great record as a soldier. For bravery in the bloody battle of Langemark at which Canadians gained such distinguished honor and praise, from General French and the British press, the wounded hero was recommended to receive the much prized distinguished conduct medal. His name was also mentioned in the despatches for the pluck and endurance he displayed in helping to recapture the 47 guns lost by the Canadians. Two regiments of the 64th, the 1st and 2nd, are also doing their bit for King and Country both being in the fighting line in France.

Weldon Clark, who was recently killed in France, was the elder son of Albert and Gertrude Clark of Buxton. He was twenty-three years of age. He leaves father, mother, three sisters and one brother. For the past two years he has been living in the west at Simpson, Sask., from where he enlisted in the 46th Battalion in December last. After training at Regina he was selected among others for transfer from the battalion to reinforce the first Canadian contingent and was sent to Shorncliffe, England, where he remained only a few weeks before being ordered to the front. On his arrival in France he took part in the severe bombardment of the German lines preparatory to the great offensive movement and was killed in action on September 18. Pte. Clark was a descendant, through his mother, of the old Loyalist family of Marvins, and has worthily upheld the honor and loyal traditions of his ancestors.

The completion of the Cello Canal, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River, adds Idaho to the list of states having a seaport. It is now possible for stern-wheel river steamers to pass from the Pacific Ocean to Lewiston, at the head of the Snake River, a distance of 480 miles.

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H. L. SPENCER, PROMINENT MAN OF LETTERS, DEAD

(Continued from page 1.)

H. L. Spencer was born at Castleton, Vermont, on April 28, 1829, and received his education and spent his early years there. For a time he taught school and later was engaged in commercial pursuits, his business taking him to the southern states before the civil war and to the maritime provinces and Newfoundland during the latter part of the war.

He began to write in the early forties, his work appearing in the Knickerbocker, Sartain's and Graham's Magazines. Later he wrote for the New York Tribune and Post and the Boston Journal and became editor of the Herald in Rutland, Vermont, in 1860.

In 1868 Mr. Spencer came to St. John and entered business here, also editing the Maritime Monthly. Afterwards he became a valued member of the staff of the St. John Telegraph and the Star and the Record and the Gazette, corresponding also for other papers. Although much of Mr. Spencer's best work was contributed to the newspapers and not preserved in other form he published a booklet of poems in 1849, Summer Saunterings Away Down East, 1850; A Song of the Years and a Memory of the Past, 1851; a volume of poems at a later period and The Fugitives, A Sheaf of Verses, 1909.

Mr. Spencer was personally acquainted with Ralph Waldo Emerson, Nathaniel Hawthorne and several of their famous literary contemporaries. In New England, he was a classmate of Henry Cabot Lodge, Redfield Proctor and others who became prominent in public life. He also corresponded at intervals for many years with Elbert Hubbard, the famous writer and lecturer who was one of the victims of the Lusitania tragedy. The Montreal Standard during the last two years published many of Mr. Spencer's poems.

After giving up newspaper work Mr. Spencer went to the home of an old friend, John Edwards, and opened there a little store, which he conducted for several years. There was very little trade, but it kept his active mind partially occupied. He also wrote at intervals during that period a series of short sketches for The Evening Times. These, under the heading, The Ingle Nook Philosopher of Kenebecasis Bay, were read with universal interest, not only for their quaint fancies and wise reflections, but for their fine literary quality. The birds, the trees, the flowers, the children--Nature in all her moods--furnished material which his lively imagination used with good effect to embellish a story, present a word picture or point a moral.

But some five years ago his physical weakness became such that the little store had to be closed and Mr. Spencer returned to the city. Kind friends have since ministered to his comfort as he grew more feeble, and the newspaper men of the city, the Women's Canadian Club and others have given him more than one occasion tangible proofs of their regard and their recognition of his poetic genius. The Women's Canadian Club, which has been so successful in its efforts to help the poor, has especially kind to the poet during the last three years, and their store had to be closed and Mr. Spencer returned to the city. Kind friends have since ministered to his comfort as he grew more feeble, and the newspaper men of the city, the Women's Canadian Club and others have given him more than one occasion tangible proofs of their regard and their recognition of his poetic genius. 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