

Like human gophers burrowing, whole armies sap and mine,  
 And foul beneath the winds of God, proud humans rot as swine,  
 And crimson with the blood of men the streams their courses run:—  
 God in this Christmas hour forgive! How shall we greet Thy Son?

The rocket's glare shall greet His eyes, the tumult break His rest,  
 And He the King shall sorrowed cling unto His mother's breast,  
 The battle's smoke His star shall dim, the song the angels sing  
 Shall pass unheard; thus men at war shall greet their Lord and King.

What of the future and mankind while Christian, Christian slays?  
 How shall we dream of better things amid these saddened days?  
 There sounds, derisive, from the East, the laughing Pagan lands,  
 Go back, false prophets of the Christ, with blood upon your hands.

Behind their Eastern barriers as tigers wait their prey,  
 The little bead-eyed yellow men sit dreaming of their Day,  
 When crippled Europe, on a crutch, shall cringe before their power  
 And, chained with broken sword, renounce two thousand years of dower.

—T. A. Browne.

Christmas, 1916.

### MANITOBA RAILWAY MAIL CLERKS' ASSOCIATION.

The regular monthly meeting of the Association was held on December 2nd, the Vice-President in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The Secretary read the correspondence.

The Secretary reported that 32 parcels had been duly despatched to our fellow clerks at war on the 24th ult.; final statement of account will be made at the next meeting.

The Benevolent Association in its amended form was thoroughly discussed and the sense of the meeting was expressed in the following motion: "That this Association, notwithstanding the fact that quite a number of our members have already joined the Benevolent Association, do strongly protest the inclusion of Article 7 of the amended By-laws as being discriminatory to clerks at present in the Service over 35 years of age, and would recommend that three months' consideration be equivalent to joining *immediately* and that it be

made *compulsory* for all *newly appointed* clerks to join within three months after they receive their permanent appointment, and would also emphasize the fact of there being no guarantee that future entrants to the Service will become members of this Benevolent Association, no By-laws upon the subject and at the present time no age limit for new appointments to the Civil Service."

The question of transferring of mails was again discussed, and in view of the members present, it was decided to take any further action at a subsequent meeting.

Officers for 1917:—President, R. A. Borland; Vice-President, R. Laing; Treasurer, F. Swinford; Secretary, C. A. Hives; Federation Representative, C. A. Hives, 1917-8; Executive, Messrs. D. Agnew, M. Cyr, L. C. Chislett and W. McPherson.

### POST OFFICE SOLDIERS.

The British postmaster general gave notice that the Christmas mails should be despatched early because seventy thousand post office employees are in the army.