

Rev. Albert Harding, as the father of soldier sons, and the pastor of a church at Royton, Lancs, which has sent 84 of its young men into the army, says it is stated that the rum ration is practically forced on men during the winter months. In one case a man who had strong temperance convictions asked his lieutenant to excuse his taking the rum, and was refused. He asked to see the captain, and was again refused. Eventually the colonel gave him permission to abstain from the rum ration. Surely, says Mr. Harding, lads who have gone from church and Sunday school and Band of Hope, having never touched strong drink, ought to have their principles respected.

### OUR SOLDIERS.

"That's a jolly nice car you've got, sir, if I may say so."

"Tisn't mine, dear boy, it belongs to my orderly."—London Opinion.

### THE USE OF ZEPPELINS.

"The future of a Zeppelin as a naval scout is generally recognized. It must soon surely be recognized quite as generally that it has no other future."—New Statesman.

### IN EAU-COURT L'ABBAYE.

"Where the old monks once came clinking down with horn lanterns to fetch the abbot wine or to count their stores, English soldiers, covered with mud, sit rubbing up their rifles."—Daily Chronicle.

### NO FOURTH WINTER.

"There must be a third winter in the trenches. Let us get that certainly into our minds once for all. That ordeal through months of rain and cold must be the last of its kind."—Observer.

### THE NE WSTLE.

"Mistress to New Maid: 'Mary, we breakfast at eight every morning.'

"Maid: 'That's all right, ma'am; if I'm not down, don't you wait.'"—Pall Mall Gazette.

### AT THE FRONT.

"I hear that the song that they cannot bear to hear sung or played out there is 'Home, Sweet Home.'"

A further search in the cottage of the old Cornish miner at Newlyn, near Penzance, where a hoard of £1,000 was discovered, has resulted in the finding of some £50 worth of jewellery. He and his wife had seemed to be in great poverty.

Vicar: "Amid all your troubles, Mrs. Smith, I am pleased to see that your sense of gratitude does not fail."

Mrs. Smith: "No, sir. Rheumatiz is bad indeed, but I must be thankful I still 'ave a back to 'ave it in!"

A Scot soldier, back from the trenches bereft of speech, recovered it at a Liverpool theatre when "Scotland Forever" was sung. His enthusiasm was so great it brought back his voice and he hurried home "to tell Maggie!"

Cardiff bakers are raising the price of the 4 lb. loaf to ten pence.

The time has come when we are in the final phase of the struggle, however long that final phase may last. And in that phase it is the silver bullets that will have the last word.

"Birmingham jewellers are making representations to the government about the situation created in their trade through the stoppage of supplies of gold for manufacturing purposes.

### NATIONAL SERVICE BY THE PEOPLE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

To the People of Nova Scotia:—

The directors of the National Service met at Ottawa recently and formulated schemes for carrying on their work. The duties of directors are, in effect, to make themselves acquainted with industrial conditions in their respective districts, to consider what kinds of work are essential or non-essential to the country under war conditions, to draw out and utilize all available labor so that the largest possible number of men may be freed for military service, and to decide, when called upon, whether in the interest of the country certain men should or should not enlist in the overseas forces of Canada. To men who offer to enlist, but whose services are considered more valuable to the state in their present employment than if they joined the military forces, badges and certificates of exemption will be given.

As the basis of all effort to utilize our resources to best advantage, it was considered essential to take a census of the man power of the dominion. The rough outlines of a scheme having that object in view were drawn up, and the director-general had conferences with the census and post office departments of the government.

The officials of these departments are now engaged in working out the details of a scheme which we hope will give us all necessary information within a reasonable time, and at much less cost than would be entailed by a regular census.

When the data is secured and classified, we should be in a position to know what man power we have, what proportion of it is essential to carry on the necessary business of the country, and what proportion may be considered available to enter the military and naval forces of Canada.

Another object that occupied our attention was the utilization of woman's labor during the war. It was believed that there are thousands of women in Canada who would gladly give their services temporarily for special kinds of work, provided they knew that they were thereby releasing men for military duty. It was decided to encourage women to offer their services for such work as was suitable, and to induce employers to take advantage of such offers when opportunity arises.

With that object in view it was resolved to organize committees of women, to be known as "Women's National Service Boards," for the purpose of opening registers for female labor, for the purpose of procuring employment for such women as offered their services, and for the supervision which would be necessary under new conditions.