

THE ACADIAN.

WOLFVILLE, N. S., MAR. 30, 1917.

Huns at Home.

The provincial government at Halifax is evidently following similar methods to those employed by Germany in the conquered territory of Belgium and France. Everything is gripped that comes to its mill, and every industry is put under heavy tribute to furnish money to provide for its wastefulness.

One of the latest devices is a bill now before the legislature which has for its object direct taxation on the owners of all ranks, rich and poor alike, for the purpose of adding to the revenue of the province. The act provides that every person attending a theatre will be obliged to pay an extra tax to the government. On a five-cent admission fee, a tax of one cent will be levied. On a ten-cent fee, the tax will be two cents, and a fifteen-cent fee will have a tax of three cents, and so on.

This will mean that the ordinary working man who desires a little recreation after a hard day of labor, and wishes with his wife and say two children to attend the movies, at a ten-cent fee, will be obliged to contribute eight cents towards the Halifax government. The bill provides that the tax shall be collected by the theatre owner by means of tickets issued by the Board, and that the work of collecting be forced upon the owner, whether he like it or not, without remuneration of any kind.

The act is drastic and autocratic in the extreme, and if it becomes law will resolve itself into nothing more or less than class legislation of the meanest kind.

Just at the time when everybody is trying to get on their feet, the government is imposing a tax on the theatre-going public. Here in Wolfville our civic rulers have put forth every endeavor to raise on town affairs as usual without an increase in taxation. Such action is very laudable and in marked contrast to the doings of the legislature.

If it was the wish of the government to be of real use there are many ways in which retrenchment might be made and the people benefited. Is there any reason why that useless upper chamber should be continued at a time when unnecessary expense should be curtailed? Numerous other ways, which are familiar to all acquainted with governmental conditions, are open to the legislature if they were consistently laboring for the public interest.

If the money to be thus raised were to be applied to patriotic use or devoted to carrying on the war or providing in any way for conditions resulting therefrom, there might be some excuse for the imposition of the 'grind,' but such is not the case. It seems to us that it is about time for a taxation revolt in Nova Scotia.

What Modern Warfare Means.

We take these extracts from an article contributed by Mr. Frank H. Simonds to the New York Tribune: I do not know any way that one can give any slight hint of the desolation of the battlefield of the Somme. There it lies, ten miles deep, one above touching the furnace which is still burning up and destroying the surface of the earth and all animate and inanimate things thereon. At the other shore there begins sharply the countryside of France, and between the two shores is an infernal region in which at least a million and a half of men, British, German and French have been killed or wounded. Perhaps half a million men lie buried in the shattered folds and turns of the scarred hillsides or in the flats beside the little brooks.

And when the armies are gone and the war ends (for even this war must end some time), it is interesting, if tragic, to think of what will be the emotions of all the little people who inhabited these regions, people who, faithful to the French love for the land, will return to their old homes. And of their old homes they will find not even a fragment: the fields that they cultivated and that their fathers cultivated will have disappeared; the subsoil will still be honeycombed by the corridors of mines or the mole-like burrows of the dugouts.

I do not think one can get any conception of the real terror of this war who has not seen the country of the Somme or of Verdun, who has not seen the fashion in which this war, like a malignant war spirit, has not alone destroyed all that there was of homes of human habitation and of the fields of human effort, but has swept the earth with fire and sown it with salt, as if in the determination that there should never again be life, that men should not exist or fruit and foods grow in the fields over which it had passed.

That is a vivid picture. But doubtless it falls short of the dreadful reality.

Sickly Babies.

Sickly babies—little ones who are troubled with their stomach and bowels; whose teething is painful; digestion bad and who cannot sleep well—can be made healthy and happy with Baby's Own Tablets. Concerning the Tablets Mrs. Wilfred Damons, Val Brilliant, Que., writes: 'Please send me a box of Baby's Own Tablets as I would not care to be without them. I have used them for constipation and vomiting and am well pleased with the result.' The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville Ont.

A Sketch of the "Nova Scotia Highland Brigade."

As the month of February passes by and we behold the incoming of the month of March, instinctively the memory of every man of whatever rank, who was formerly a member of the 'Nova Scotia Highland Brigade,' turns to recount the happenings of his life in the army. Many will recall when the idea of raising a brigade in the province whose capital city is the front door of a mighty overseas Dominion, whose future will depend on the men who will return from the far-flung battle line in Europe, that many shook their heads and said it could not be done. But the flame started and for three or four weeks raged through the Blue-nose province, and the results exceeded the expectations, let alone the hopes, of those who had set their hearts on helping the Empire in every tangible way. At the end of the four weeks the little Blue-nose province had raised the full complement of men for the brigade and the Dominion looked on in admiration at the record the eastern province had set. The smoldering fire of patriotism blazed forth in all its glory and the little province which gave the man to guide the greatest Overseas Dominions in her time of stress, showed herself capable of raising in a remarkably short time a host of noble men who were willing to forego the luxuries and indulgences of their happy homes when the mother country was in danger; and the call came for every man to do his duty. Great was the sacrifice of these men, but the greater the sacrifice the more the glory that will be theirs. Some one has said that the great British empire was a 'mere fabric of the imagination.' Surely this, and other no less notable sacrifices in other quarters of the Empire, will forever still the voices of those who would dare intimate that this Empire is not something more—for is not the tie of blood the strongest claim that can hold individual nations together?

If any such thought did exist in the mind of any Britisher, it has long since been dissipated by the marvelous way in which the Empire from the centre to the circumference has rallied 'round the grand old flag which stands for the principles of liberty and democracy in their truest forms. But we must get back to our subject.

After the brigade was recruited stated the mighty work of organization. None will forget the mobilization of those 5,000 sturdy sons, drawn from the college, the workshop, the office, the farm and the fisheries—all pervaded and involved with but one motive—that of serving humanity. The little station near Aldershot could record much if it were allowed. It was not until June 2nd, 1916, that the brigade settled down and began the work which was to cost for something in the struggle then so far away. Day in and day out from morn till night they worked, each man doing his level best to uphold the reputation of the battalion to which he belonged.

It would certainly be invidious here to draw distinctions as to which was the best trained and most highly disciplined of the units. A spirit of eagerness urged each man forward and when a competition was held every one sought to do his best. Thus, probably, is explained the fact that so many favorable remarks were heard from the men whose privilege it was to inspect this gem from the province by the sea. They had the honor of having Lady Borden present the colors to the different units. It was most fitting that the 'first lady of the land' should do so as she is a daughter of the fair province.

Among those who inspected the brigade at various times were the Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught, the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, then Minister of Munitions, Sir Sam Hughes. The last to inspect that mighty mass of noble men was one of Canada's great soldiers, Major-General Leasard. The brigade having passed the test of his crucial eye is a sufficient recommendation of its training and any comment would be highly injudicious.

The voyage across the ocean and the trip across the country to the training camp are fresh in the minds of all and need not be recited here.

We regret that the exigencies of the military situation have made it necessary that this brigade should be disbanded, but higher authority than ours and the men who understand the necessities of the moment have so decided and we must accept this view. We are proud ourselves that the senior battalion will go as a unit to France and the remaining units will furnish reinforcements to the Nova Scotia battalions now in the firing line. We have no doubt whatever that when in the line the boys will furnish as fine a record as has been furnished by the brave Canadians who have gone before.

Owing to the fact that it would be useless from a military standpoint to give any details, we refrain from doing so. Suffice it to say that the moving spirit in all this mighty work was one Lieut.-Col. A. H. Borden, formerly a major in one of the regulars. In him the men had every confidence. To-day he is at the head of the senior battalion and will lead it into action Good luck and God bless him and his brave men as they face the fearful foe, in the wish of every true-hearted man. There have, no doubt, been mistakes made and there have been misanderstandings, but it is not ours to reason why. It is ours to do or die!

So the famed Nova Scotia Highland Brigade came into existence on the first of March, A. D., 1916, and passed away in all its glory with the passing of the year; but its memories

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will long remain in the minds of the men who made it up; and in years to come, on the fifty night as we sit by our fireside, memories will bring back to us some of the fragrance and glories of the old Brigade. We will be glad that we formed a part of the cosmopolitan army that fought and conquered for democracy, for humanity and for civilization—everything that was worthy and just—and that we were able to do our duty. Great was the sacrifice of these men, but the greater the sacrifice the more the glory that will be theirs. Some one has said that the great British empire was a 'mere fabric of the imagination.' Surely this, and other no less notable sacrifices in other quarters of the Empire, will forever still the voices of those who would dare intimate that this Empire is not something more—for is not the tie of blood the strongest claim that can hold individual nations together?

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