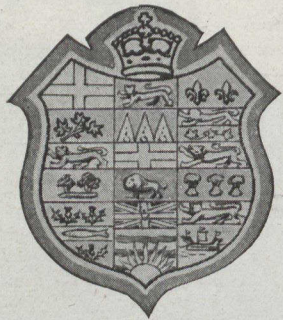


THE CANADIAN COURIER



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Finally and Fully

THE longer the war goes on, the more the conviction is driven home to the world that Germany and Austria were the only nations prepared for war. The plea that Germany was attacked by a ring of nations has now reached the vanishing point.

Busiest Nation on Earth

CANADA has no unemployment just now. The soldiers in the western camp are being given holidays so that they may go out and help the short-handed farmers reap their 250,000,000 crop of wheat. Arrangements, it is said, are being made to send soldiers from Niagara and Valcartier to the West to make sure that the Empire's food supply is all garnered. The next six weeks will be the busiest in Canada's experience.

A Healthy Rivalry

WESTERN CANADA, according to an official Ottawa statement, has given more recruits to the army than the East. The percentages are: Alberta, 3.73; Manitoba and Saskatchewan, 2.78; Ontario, 1.44; Maritime Provinces, 0.79; and Quebec, 0.61. The percentage for the whole Dominion was 1.48 when the calculation was made. Let this healthy rivalry be maintained until the end of the chapter.

A Serious Blemish

WHILE the politicians who bought infirm horses at extravagant prices in the Maritime Provinces are to be punished for malfeasance, something should be done with the dealers and farmers who sold these animals knowing them to be unsound. These men are as guilty as he who would sell his vote for a five dollar bill. They are a disgrace to the name "Canadian" and the national honour demands that they should be punished. Compelling restitution is not sufficient.

Dreams Shattered

AMERICA has its troubles as well as Europe. The "A. B. C." Republic has been conferring in New York in the hope of restoring peace in Mexico. Argentine, Brazil and Chili supply the "A. B. C.," but Uruguay, Guatemala and Bolivia were also represented.

While this is going on the United States is trying to evolve order out of chaos in Hayti. Certain American officers are very busy on this job.

And still there are a few dreamers who thought the millennium came in with the Twentieth Century.

Railways for Defence

RUSSIAN armies are lacking in munitions and aeroplanes because Russia has only one railway—that to Archangel—which gives her access to the Atlantic. A double-track road from Petrograd to Ekaterine on the Arctic coast is being feverishly constructed, and will be ready October 1st. Then Russia will be able to handle the volume of supplies needed. Till then she must fight on the defensive.

Canada has three transcontinentals, with two outlets on the Pacific and three on the Atlantic. What is the military value of these to Canada? Are they worth five hundred millions of dollars? If so, let us stop all this talk about having spent too much on transcontinentals and get down to the real business of creating traffic for them. The trouble is not that

we built railways too fast, but that we were too slow in filling up the territory that these railways have opened.

Canadian Clubs A-weary

MEN get tired and blase, and it is therefore only natural that associations of men should show similar signs occasionally. In all this patriotic work, the Canadian clubs have done very little. The women's clubs have been more active than the men's—the Ottawa club especially distinguishing itself.

Just why our Canadian clubs should have dropped into the background at this particular time is hard to explain. Perhaps they have absorbed so much of the lecture-bureau method that they are unable to undertake real work when called upon. A typical picture of a Canadian club member would be a man with short arms, undeveloped limbs, large eyes and immense ears shaped like the horn of a phonograph.

Heroes and Others

CANADIANS must learn to distinguish between soldiers who are heroes and soldiers who are merely soldiers. There is a fine distinction, somewhat complex in its elements, but one which must be made. All combatant soldiers who have come within sight of the firing line are heroes, even though they may not have actually come within range of a bayonet or gas bomb. Quite a number of Canadians have been killed by shell fire in the danger zones behind the trenches. All non-combatant officers and men who have come within range of shell or rifle fire are also heroes. They have risked their lives or shown a willingness to do so.

All combatant soldiers who have hugged the Headquarters Staff and other positions which have kept them out of the danger zone, may be doing their duty, but they are not in the hero class. There are quite a number of Canadian officers and men who are working hard on various staffs in England, but who are either unwilling to go to the front or who are not sufficiently active to be sent there. These men are not heroes and should not be classed as such.

Similarly there is a considerable number of non-combatants who are performing indispensable duties at base-depots and hospitals who should not be classed with those who have actually risked their lives. The non-combatant must give special proof of his willingness to go into the danger zone or he is no more entitled to be called a hero than many who have remained at home and performed routine duties on this side of the Atlantic.

Manitoba's Lesson

CHIEF among the lessons to be learned from the investigations in Winnipeg is the one relating to election protests. When an election is held, a protest should be lodged only after a

permanent official has passed upon the preliminary charges. When once the protest has been put into the courts, it should be followed through by a public prosecutor. There should be no saw-off possible.

This game of entering protests against elected members and then sawing-off, so many Conservative protests against an equal number of Liberal protests, does injustice to some candidates. Suppose, for example, a man is defeated by open corruption. He and his friends raise \$1,000 and enter a protest. A little while later he finds that the party authorities, without consulting him, have withdrawn his petition to save the seat of some more powerful politician. This has often occurred. The honest candidate is deprived of his seat, and a dishonest candidate takes it and passes as an honest man.

All election protests, according to practice, are entered through the party headquarters. This gives the manipulators there undue power, which they use too often for their own benefit or that of the unscrupulous elements in the party. Thus justice becomes a pawn in the political game.

Many a saw-off has concealed a burst of debauchery. The saw-off is the greatest shield to bribery and corruption in elections that has yet been invented. There will be no absolute guarantee against impurity in electoral contests until the saw-off is banished from our political life.

Were We Boastful?

A CARTOON, appearing in the Courier of August 7th, depicting John Bull expressing surprise over the size of Canada's contingent, met with approval and disapproval. The latter state of mind is well represented by the following letter from a Western subscriber:

Pilot Butte, Sask., Aug. 12.

Editor, Canadian Courier:

Sir,—I think it would have been in better taste if you had waited for John Bull to give pictorial vent to his appreciation of Canadian loyalty—or rather let us call it solidarity—which we are not doing. If we were not willing to do our proportionate share in upholding the Empire to which we belong, what honourable or logical ground could we occupy? We surely do not want to be parasites, living on the blood and sacrifices of others. In some ways we have more at stake than Great Britain herself. Should Germany win, we would get the lion's share of her attention, Canada being as fine a colonizing field as she could wish for. Uncle Sam couldn't save us. In his present condition a protest from him might start out as a valorous shout, but would surely end as a death rattle. It is even doubtful if he would take the risk of protesting, for he "didn't raise his boy to be a soldier."

The common assertion that this is as much our war as Britain's, is no dream, though one would think it was considering the failure of Canadians to do the only patriotic thing in time of war—enlist. The sooner we not only say, but believe, that this is a war in which we are vitally interested, the better for us.

I. SIMPSON.

SIR ROBERT AND CANADIAN NURSES



Our Premier has been making himself agreeable to all classes in England—the Mighty, the Soldiers and the Ladies. Here he is chatting with some Canadian nurses who were guests of Lady Llangattock, at South Lodge, Richmond Gate.