

## SIDNEY AND ISLANDS REVIEW

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A. E. MOORE, Manager.

### THE MESSIAH.

There is very little doubt but that many people from Sidney will take advantage of the opportunity offered to hear the Messiah presented by the choice of Victoria's talent on January 24 and 25. To make it more convenient for those desiring to go, and who do not wish to remain in the city over night, arrangements are being made with the V. & S. Railway to run a special train from Sidney on the second night of the performance, January 25th. Of course those going in will travel by the regular 6.15 train and the special will be in readiness to bring them home as soon as the opera is over.

There is one fact, however, that we would like to draw to the attention of those desiring to take advantage of this special train, and that is they must signify their intention of doing so during the coming week to Mr. J. J. White, and deposit with him the return fare of 85 cents, and if they wish they can also purchase from him tickets of admission to the theatre, as he has this week received quite a number of both the 50 cent and 75 cent tickets. Mr. White is taking upon himself the trouble of arranging for the special train, and of course he has to give a guarantee for a certain number of passengers. This guarantee is not unreasonable and there should be no trouble in getting the necessary number to purchase tickets so as to make the venture a success. Kindly attend to this matter at once if you desire to visit Victoria on that particular evening.

### THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MACHINE GUNS.

After the very definite, almost emphatic statement of the Prime Minister, at St. John, N.B., on October 20th no further money should be diverted from the Patriotic Fund by well meaning but rather thoughtless people who claim that the equipment of Canadian forces is sufficient. Sir Robert has made it very plain that the Government is fully prepared to make every necessary provision for guns, munitions and equipments and he appeals to the generosity of the public only on behalf of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Society and sister associations. We quote below an extract from the speech in question:—

"Regarding machine guns, we realized early in the war the necessity of an abundant supply, and orders have been given from time to time for a very large number. Those ordered during the first twelve months of the war are now being rapidly delivered, and they are more than sufficient to equip two army corps up to the highest standard of the enemy's forces. During the past summer the provision of machine guns became a matter of vital interest to the Canadian people, as reports through the press emphasized the necessity that our forces should be adequately supplied with all the machine guns that could be utilized. Patriotic individuals offered to contribute large sums for this distinctive purpose. The Government of Ontario made a similar patriotic proposal, and throughout the country various communities generously subscribed to funds for this object. During my absence in Great Britain my colleagues endeavored to make it clear to the people that an ample supply of machine guns had been ordered and that these would be paid for out of the Canadian Treasury. The Treasury of Canada ought properly to bear all the cost of equipping and maintaining our forces, in

the field, and that has been our policy. Nevertheless, the spirit and impulse which prompted our people could not be stayed, and, indeed, any attempt to stay it would have been misunderstood. Up to date the sums thus received by the Government amount to \$773,327.95.

"In dealing with other needs which will certainly arise, the Government will not fail to remember that these generous and free-will offerings have been made. And in all your splendid generosity, do not forget the Patriotic Fund and the Canadian Red Cross Society. They have done a great work, but they have a still greater work to do. Appeals which assuredly will not fall on deaf ears must be made in the early future. See that the response is generous and ample. When you are making provision for the Canadian Patriotic Fund the Canadian Red Cross Society, the Canadian War Contingent Association and other like patriotic organizations you may be assured that the Government will not fail to make every necessary provision for guns, munitions and equipment.

### OUR RETURNED SOLDIERS.

The establishment of the Soldiers' Aid Commission for Ontario, of which the Secretary is Mr. C. N. Cochrane, Parliament Buildings, Toronto, is the first result of the report recently issued by the Hospitals Commission, and the forerunner of others.

The care of the soldier who has returned to Canada, mutilated or weakened as a result of active service, is the prime duty of Canadians. For some months the Canadian Patriotic Fund has been endeavoring to ensure that the men already back from Europe should suffer no want. This work has been voluntarily undertaken by local committees of the Fund, although in most instances their time is fully occupied with the task of making provision for the families of soldiers.

Each soldier is interviewed at Quebec by a representative of the Fund and a confidential report sent by the latter to the patriotic committee of the town to which the soldier is going. This serves the two-fold purpose of protecting the Fund against the greedy or unscrupulous and of giving the local committee information that is helpful in finding employment for the deserving. Not every man who returns to Canada wearing His Majesty's uniform is included in the latter category, but the great majority have done their duty in the fullest degree. To the latter it has been the privilege of the Fund to present a small badge bearing the words, "For Service at the Front." The men who are wearing these badges are the worthiest citizens that we can acknowledge. Like charity, that badge should be allowed to cover a multitude of sins.

The work that the Canadian Patriotic Fund can do for returned soldiers, however, is limited by Act of Parliament, and it has been specifically enacted that no assistance can be given by the Fund to "any person who is in receipt of any gratuity, pension or allowance paid by His Majesty or by any foreign government in consequence of incapacity or death occurring as aforesaid." Partly on this account and largely because the pensions and gratuities paid to incapacitated men are oft-times admittedly inadequate, it has been necessary to establish a Hospital Commission and Disablement Fund. The officials of the latter, in their report to the Federal Government, recommended among other measures, that provincial commissions be formed for the purpose of supplementing these pensions either by monetary grants or by free training in various trades. The Soldiers' Aid Commission of Ontario, as we have said above, is the first step in this direction. Already it has announced its intention of mobilizing the manufacturers of Ontario and we do not doubt that the process will be facilitated by the manufacturers themselves. Others also will be asked to lend their aid in discharging a great national duty and there is every prospect that in Canada at

least the traditional tragedy of the returned soldier will have no place.

A copy of "The Western Scot," the splendid little twelve page magazine published by the 67th Western Scots now in camp at the Willows, came to hand this week, and we must congratulate the military editor on the beautiful appearance of his newsy little sheet and the particularly good manner in which it is edited. Of course a majority of the items therein relate to the doings of the regiment itself, but it also contains much that is of interest to outsiders. A lengthy article on the recent trip to Sidney by No. 3 Company occupies a prominent place and a series of shorter items under the caption "Sidney Hits," and from among these we quote the following: "We like Sidney, but oh you Saanichton." Does anybody know what it means.

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Application for a lease must be made by the applicant in person to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the district in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal subdivisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of \$5 which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall furnish the agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only, but the lessee may be permitted to purchase whatever available surface rights may be considered necessary for the working of the mine at the rate of \$10.00 per acre.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,  
Deputy Minister of the Interior  
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