

CANADIAN COURIER

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Published Every Other Week

The Human Touch in the Mail

IT is a mistake to believe that this commercialized civilization of ours has killed Romance, which is but another name for the delightful surprises human nature exhibits. It really did not need a postman's strike to convince many a business man that his morning's mail nurtured an appetite partially, at least, for sensations other than those associated with profits. I said Romance, thinking not only of pleasing ideals as of the tragic stuff that has shot through the warp of business as usual in Canada during four years.

It has become a truism that is untrue to say that the art of letter writing is dead. Far from it, yet letters are shorter. The War has called out the soul of the youthful even in matters relating to business. I am giving an instance in part herewith, only withholding the names:

"Living near the border I very often have occasion to cross the line, and one thing that always strikes me is this: you don't have to read it on a sign board to know you are in the U. S. A. The people are reading, talking and singing their country with an earnestness that gives a foreigner to understand that their country, and everything in it, is first with them.

"I used to wonder why we Canadians did not get the same spirit about our beautiful Canada. After reading one or two copies of the Courier I found the secret, the something that created in these friends of ours across the line that mighty national spirit.

"I am a young man, and I know what I am speaking about when I say, if we had more Couriers we would have fewer Dominion and military police employed in —. But this is no fault of the young men. They would fight if they only knew what a great and beautiful Canada this is."

That's rather worth while thinking about. A national journal which in its first reading convinces a young man that here is a force operating for patriotism and life. How we like to have our opinions confirmed! An observing and impressionable young man, I should say.

THE BOYS MISS THEIR HOME PAPERS

Speaking of a war note, here is one in both senses. How many tradesmen over Canada have written over diminished business in their sales books these words, invisible to all but themselves: "Owing to the war." It is done uncomplainingly, for—we are at war. What thousands of young fellows are missing the influence of their home papers and magazines. The only thing we can do is to send to them occasionally. Recently some kind-hearted friends of the Courier, unknown to its management, have been subscribing numerous for copies directed to soldiers in hospitals.

Grand Mere, Que., July 6, 1918.

"Dear Sir:—

"It is too bad that I cannot receive any more your Courier. I go in the navy next week and can't tell if I will be back or not.

"Let me tell you as a French-Canadian that I was very satisfied with your paper and regret that I will not be able to read it for awhile.

"Yours truly,

"MATTY TROTIER."

There is real regret for both of us in this note. And the "if" in it—how that expresses the war and its tragic uncertainty. In the spirit of the writer of the old song, some of our boys go to the war with a gentle sentiment,

"I could not love thee, dear, so much, loved I not honor more."

THE BUSINESS EDITOR.

What is News?

News can only be that which is true—confirmed fact, evil exposed, and constructive good made known. Not rumors of the worst. Nor accidents, scandals and crimes of the day, with grewsome details.

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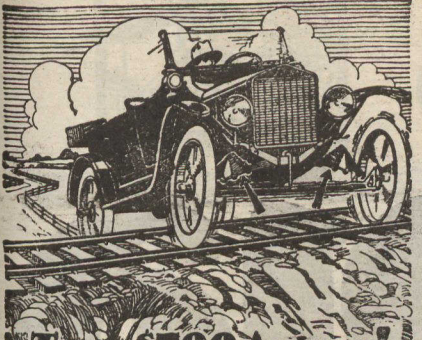
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