

nation's struggle against Germany, and that practically is what the tax-free bond amounts to. The irony of the matter is that so many people who invest in Victory Bonds are very inclined to flourish the fact about, as a sort of proof of their patriotic devotion. Another domestic war loan will very likely be floated in Canada next autumn, and it ought not to grant exemption from taxation to those who invest in it. To adapt Dr. Johnson's famous words, the war bond may become too easily "the last refuge of a scoundrel."

The Human Jackal

The predatory instinct in human nature has developed many types of people since the day when Eve tempted Adam to consume the forbidden apple. We have the cruel Prussian personality whose lust for world-power has permeated a whole nation. There are the highway robber and the burglar who openly defy the law in their desire to appropriate the goods of other people, and there is the slick, business crook who day by day risks discovery by the police while he acquires money by embezzlement and forgery. All such men are a product of the evil of covetousness and are a constant peril to society; but even in the crimes they have committed we have been constrained at times to admire a certain element of courage and boldness. There is, however, another type of offender against society, in whom nothing but the lowest, the most cowardly, and most despicable instincts prevail. He is the swindler, the profiteer—the man who keeps just within the law, capitalizing to the utmost the needs and sentiments of his fellow-being. This type is the human jackal, and he is abroad to-day amongst the farming people, extorting exorbitant gains through an ill-gotten trade. The particular instance we have in mind is that of two dealers in enlarged pictures and picture frames, bearing names that suggest foreign extraction.

In a certain rural community in Manitoba, these two creatures have been plying their trade during the past year, making a specialty of deceiving and holding up the wives and widows of soldiers. The Guide has just learned of a typical case. Last August, one of these agents called upon the wife of a soldier who was at that time serving with the Canadian forces overseas. He urged her to have the photograph of her absent husband enlarged, the cost to be only \$4.95. The photograph was one of the husband attired in his uniform, and playing strongly upon the wife's pride and sentiment, he succeeded in closing the deal, the cost of the enlargement to be met only on delivery. In January, some six months later, another man, accompanied by the seller of the picture, returned to deliver the enlargement. By this time, however, it had been placed in an elaborate frame, and before the guileless woman could get what she had contracted for, she was

prevailed upon to buy the frame and all, at the ridiculous price of \$34.95. Agent number two did all the talking on this occasion, number one having performed his part of the dirty work six months earlier.

When the husband who had returned home from the front learned from his wife that she had issued a cheque for such an exorbitant amount, steps were taken at once to cancel the check, and a letter was written also to the swindler protesting against his action and informing him of what had been done. Nothing whatever was heard from either of the agents until a couple of weeks ago, when a garnishee dated from the County Court of Winnipeg was served upon the soldier's wife, demanding \$42.75, representing the price of the framed picture and legal costs. The matter is now in the courts and technically, the swindlers may be able to get judgment, and technically also, the soldier and his wife may be able to file a stiff counter-claim of false pretences against these two plaintiffs. Whatever happens in this particular case, the West cannot find room for picture-framing artists of that ilk. The sooner the human jackal is banished from the prairies the better.

Red Cross Needs Your Help

As the war grows in fierceness and intensity on the west front, the demands upon the Red Cross organization increase. Early in January, the executive of the Canadian Red Cross Society fixed its annual budget at \$4,000,000 to be raised by the whole Dominion. Manitoba was asked for \$600,000. But since that budget was prepared, the Germans have launched their offensive and captured much new ground. The battles of the present year will leave long lists of casualties in their trail, and it is now realized that the January estimates of the Canadian Red Cross

executive, were far too low. Therefore, it has been necessary to ask Manitoba as well as the other provinces to increase their appropriations. The city of Winnipeg, early in April, realizing its responsibility, doubled the amount allotted to it. While \$300,000 was expected from Winnipeg in the first place, the actual amount realized, has exceeded \$650,000.

During the week of June 17 to 22, the whole province of Manitoba, with the exception of Winnipeg will be asked to make its contributions to the Red Cross. If the districts outside of this city equal the effort that was made here a month ago, Manitoba, with a total contribution of more than \$1,000,000 will have reason to be proud of itself. Personally, we believe that the rural districts will more than hold their own with Winnipeg. The women of Manitoba especially have always supported the work of the Red Cross with their energies as with their money. The women of the rural districts are sending in more finished work, such as socks, pyjamas, shirts, etc., to the headquarters at Winnipeg than are their city sisters. The faithful spirit of devotion which has kept the people in the more remote parts of the province true to their cause in the war, will surely be reflected further during the Red Cross week of June 17 to 22. The need for help from all the provinces is great, and The Guide will be glad to receive contributions for the Red Cross from any source.

The spectacle of Bonar Law, the erstwhile leader of the protectionist party of Britain, presenting to the British parliament the largest budget in history, and that budget based upon the traditional free trade policy of England, is not by any means the least feature of the war.

There are ominous rumblings of political disturbance in Austria. The Kaiser will rattle his sword presently, and Austria will again become the silent partner.

Sir Thomas White, Minister of Finance, who has been in California for his health, has gone to Washington as Canada's financial comptroller. There is a problem to solve there involving reciprocal relations with our neighbors.

There were many people who said during the federal election last December, that the press of Canada had been bought by means of government advertising in such campaigns as the Victory Loan issue. The published figures revealing the actual cost of floating the Victory Loan show that out of total expenses amounting to \$5,000,000, only \$207,000 went to all the newspapers and journals in Canada for advertising, while \$750,000 went as commission to brokers, \$1,140,000 to canvassers, and \$984,395 to bankers.



HELPING OUT THE OLD MAN

"The Chancellor expressed the government's appreciation of the hearty co-operation on the part of the Canadian government in assisting to finance the war."—From the report of the British budget speech by Mr. Bonar Law, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

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