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ATTACK AT THE FRONT DESCRIBED IN DETAIL

Major Wilfrid Mavor, M.C. Tells Members of Empire Club of Preparations Which Are Necessary.

Major Wilfrid Mavor, M.C. described to the Empire Club yesterday in simple but graphic phrase the preparations that are made previous to carrying out an attack at the front, as at Vimy Ridge. The narrative, while utterly unpretentious, omitted nothing of the details that everyone at home wishes to hear and very few from the front ever mention.

After an attack there is much disorganization. The men get 21 days in billets. Reinforcements are brought up and distributed. The new men are taken out, lined up and looked over. They are told that the Canadian Corps is the best in the allied army, that they are being put in the best division, and each man gets put into the best battalion, the best company and the best platoon. If it isn't the best he is impressed with the fact that the fault is entirely his. If anything wrong is done by the newcomer he is patted on the shoulder and warned not to do it again, or if he does he will be shot. His gear is quizzed, wanders about and is allotted to the place he is fitted for. The Canadians follow the French system of four companies to a battalion, four platoons to a company, and four sections to a platoon. The sections are the bombing, the rifle grenade, the rifle and bayonet, and the Lewis gun. Baseball players are put in the bombing section. Good shots go to the rifles. All the "boobs" go to the rifle grenade.

Before a "show" the ground is studied until it is known intimately. The "three days before" are known as X, Y and Z days. There is no secret made of the fact that an attack is contemplated, whether German spies are present or not. Everyone knows the gathering of artillery and munitions. On "Y" day the battlefront is taken over. Men bring up bombs, rum and ammunition. Officers look after the extra measure of rum. "A very essential duty," said the speaker.

When the zero time comes hell breaks loose. All the iron in the world seems flying. You are either killed or wounded or come back. The new page is turned in the book and the work begins all over again.

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HIGHER TAXES, SAYS BRADSHAW; BUT MAYOR IS OPTIMISTIC

"There is no question but that the tax rate will be higher this year than last," Finance Commissioner Bradshaw.

"I am endeavoring to keep the tax rate 'down' to last year's rate anyway," Mayor Church.

These are two conflicting views of civic officials.

"It depends entirely on the board of education," said the finance commissioner when asked what the rate would be. "It will be higher, but how much higher I cannot say."

"The outside board will have to cut down their expenditures," said the mayor. "We are practicing economy, and they will have to do the same. I am quite in hopes that we can keep the tax rate as low as last year's."

RECOMMENDS UNION JACK.

Parkdale Branch G.W.V.A. Will Likely Buy New Flag.

Secretary Evasion of the Parkdale Branch of the G.W.V.A. stated yesterday that the Parkdale executive at its Wednesday evening meeting passed a resolution recommending the branch to procure a Union Jack for use on occasion, and with a view to preventing the recurrence of such a deplorable lapse as was occasioned at the recent funeral of Mr. Robert Wilson.

The Parkdale club is to be moved into its new quarters, Queen and Dovercourt, nearly next week.

ENGINEERS DISCUSS WAGES.

A 40c minimum wage schedule was the main topic of discussion at a special meeting Tuesday evening of local 152 of the International Union of Stationary Engineers. The local is in splendid condition, and prospects generally are so favorable that it may not be unnecessary to present any wage schedule.

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CONCERT PROGRAM FOR EMPIRE DAY

Supervisor Reports Conditions of Competition for Annual Event for Schools.

UNITED STATES ADDED

"The Star-Spangled Banner" Will Be in List of Musical Numbers.

One very noticeable change was made in this year's program for the Empire Day concert which was presented to the committee in charge of the work by L. Rees, supervisor of music in the city schools, yesterday. This year "The Star Spangled Banner" has been added to the list of musical numbers in view of the fact that the United States is now one of the allies. Mr. Rees explained that as it might be impossible to have some of the songs printed in the book that is used, it would be advisable to have the committee pick out the songs they wished in case some of them are not obtainable. Mr. Rees has the authority to use any of the remaining numbers that he wishes. The committee's choice in the following report are a (1) "The Maple Leaf".... Mur (2) "The Empire is Our Country".... Chisholm (3) "Heresies and Gentleness".... Penick (4) "Cader Idria".... Rowlands (5) "The Harper's Melody".... Estyn (6) "King George" (7) "The Children's Home".... Dr. Cowen (8) "Holding the Sails".... Dr. Farr (9) "The New Kingdom" (10) "Rule Britannia".... Dr. Arne (11) "Star Spangled Banner".... Kinging (12) "The Home Bells Are Ringing" (13) "The Best Old Flag on Earth" (14) "Good Night" (15) "When Johnny Comes Marching Home" (16) "The Shower"—arranged from Il Trovatore (17) "God Save the King"

The retailers, secretaries, accompanist and conductor, whose services are required from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the chorus rehearsals, to be granted the same remuneration as last year.

(a) Choir test—30 to 25 voices—"Song of the Sailors," Minard.

(b) Double trio test—"Lead Kindly Light"

(c) Girl solo test—To be selected later.

(d) Boy solo test—To be selected later.

(e) Choirs to be conducted and to sing without accompaniment.

(f) Members of the choir and double trios registered as members of the chorus are to sing in the chorus at the rehearsals and concert.

(g) Double trios to sing without being conducted and without accompaniment.

(h) Soloists to purchase their own music and to bring their own accompanist to the school, preliminary and final competition. (Soloists to be trained to sing the test selection by members of the staff only.)

(i) No time to be taken up for choir, double trio or solo practice between 9 and 12 or 1.30 and 4 p.m. except on two days a week, when the practices may commence at 3.30 p.m. These practices must not be held on the same days as the chorus rehearsals, which are held on Mondays in the west and Wednesdays in the east.

The same arrangements as last year to be made re chorus rehearsals.

The secretary-treasurer, the superintendent of supplies and the supervisor of music to make all arrangements—1000 seats at 25 cents, and remainder at 60 cents.

The statement of receipts and expenditure, based on amounts passed at this meeting, to be presented to the concert committee as soon as possible after the concert, as in former years.

Time of Competitions.

(a) School competition—to select the best soloist—Tuesday, May 7, kindergarten room at Wesley school, or more teachers from the staff of the school to act as judges. Entries for the school competition to be sent to the principal.

(b) Preliminary competition at 3.30 p.m. between May 14 and 21, in the kindergarten room, Wesley school. Best two girl soloists, best two boy soloists, best two double trios and best three choirs to sing at the final competition in Massey Hall. The competition must bring a certificate from the principal certifying that the training in the test selection has been done exclusively by members of the staff.

All entries for the double trio and choir competitions to be sent to the office of L. Rees, supervisor of music, May 6. Should there be only one competitor at the school competition, the selection should be made before the judges, because the teachers are respectively requested not to send a soloist to the preliminary competition unless he or she has the song sufficiently well prepared to worthy represent the school. The numbers on the concert program to be limited to those rendered by the best choirs, and winners in the preliminary competitions.

The Empire Day concert committee consists of Trustees Hopkins, Hodgson, C. A. B. Brown, Dr. Caroline Brown Hunter, McCallister, Edmunds, McTaggart, Steele and Miss Boulton.

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