

JUST YESTERDAY.

Just yesterday she held him to her breast.
A tiny, helpless, blue-eyed baby boy,
And dreamed of days when he would stand a man.
Before her. Oh, her soul was filled with joy—
Just yesterday!

Just yesterday her loving hands caressed
His tousled, wind-blown hair and freckled face,
And bound the hurts he knew. How tenderly
She kissed each little scratch and bruised place—
Just yesterday.

Just yesterday she saw him graduate
And scarce could realize her boy had come
To manhood's threshold. Oh, her heart beat high
With hope for him, her stalwart, manly son—
Just yesterday!

Just yesterday her country called her boy.
She did not weep or rail at circumstance,
But bravely bade him do his duty clear.
He kissed her; then he went away to France—
Just yesterday!

Just yesterday her hands were hard at work
With bandages; and as she rolled them tight
She whispered: "Maybe they will be for him,
My boy, who's somewhere over there tonight."
Just yesterday!

—John H. Styles, Jr., in the Christian Herald.

Military Cross Hero



CAPT. William Stewart MacTier, who was rewarded yesterday to have been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in the first line, is the son of Mr. A. D. MacTier, general manager of eastern lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Capt. MacTier went to the front with the first Canadian Contingent and has been twice wounded, the first time at Ypres, and lately at Vimy Ridge. At the outbreak of the war, Capt. MacTier was on his way returning from Europe, and immediately on landing joined the Thirtieth Battalion, under Lieut.-Col. (now Brigadier-General) Loomis, D.S.O. He went to the front with that unit and fought with it when it covered itself with glory at Ypres and Festubert. He was then wounded by shrapnel and returned to Montreal to convalesce. On returning to the front he was attached to Brigadier-General Loomis' staff, he having taken over the command of a brigade in the mean time. At the time one of his feet gave out and an operation was necessary. On his return to the front on this occasion he was transferred to a Montreal Highland Battalion and promoted to his captaincy.



WASHING FOR THE FAMILY.

Parliament Takes Drastic Action to Increase our Forces Abroad.

CALL OF ALL UNMARRIED MEN TO MILITARY SERVICE BETWEEN 19 AND 24 YEARS.

ALL EXISTING EXEMPTIONS GRANTED IN CANADA ARE ABOLISHED.

OTTAWA, April 16.—The urgency of the demand for reinforcements to meet the crisis at the front and the failure of the cumbersome machinery provided by the Military Service Act to supply these reinforcements quickly have necessitated the virtual wiping out of the whole machinery of the Act and the substitution at once of a direct call to the colors of all unmarried young men physically fit for military service between the ages of 20 and 24. This drastic action determined upon by the Cabinet Council was embodied in an Order-in-Council to which Parliament's approval will be asked on Thursday was communicated to the Government Caucus this morning and announced to the press by the Prime Minister this evening.

Of the Military Service Act, with all its cumbersome exemption machinery, practically nothing is left save the title. The principle of the Militia Act is substituted. The Minister of Militia is clothed with full authority to call men by classes according to age, and with all exemptions, heretofore granted under the Military Service Act, automatically cancelled as soon as the men are called.

ONLY 20,000 MEN SECURED.

It is certain that Parliament's consent to the new regulations will be promptly given. The consent of the Government majority was obtained this morning. If there is objection from the other side of the House, the resolution of approval of the Order-in-Council can be speedily closed through. From now on strong handed action and quick results are expected. The Military Service Act has really produced only about 20,000 in about six months. The hundred thousand men wanted are wanted quickly and as the Order-in-Council recites "time does not permit examination by exemption tribunals of the value in civil life or the position of the individuals called up for duty."

The old order is to be reversed. The men are now to be called and exempted afterwards in exceptional cases instead of calling them only after the exemption process of the selective draft with all its consequent delays has been operated.

ALL EXEMPTIONS WIPED OUT.

While the existing process of the Military Service Act will be continued for the present in regard to unmarried over twenty-four years of age and draftees will still be secured as rapidly as possible from Class One over the age the immediate and practical result the new regulation will be that all the exemptions now granted except for physical unfitness to young men within the ages of twenty and twenty-four in that class will be wiped out, and they will be drafted at once irrespective of their present civil occupations. The only important exceptions will be in the case of those who were exempted because the other members of their families have been already killed or disabled on active service.

The Government hopes that the calling of these young men will not jeopardize food production to any material extent and believe that in any case the exigencies of the situation demand the short cut to securing men immediately. If later on it is found necessary to call up the Second Class it is understood that married men between nineteen and twenty-four will be subject to the first call.

In effect the new regulations put the whole discretion and responsibility for determining who shall be called and when they shall be called upon the Cabinet Council acting through the Minister of Militia instead of confining the drafting to the limits and methods prescribed by the Military Service Act, acting through the Minister of Justice.

ALL LIABLE AT NINETEEN.

The Order-in-Council not only makes all young men now nineteen years of age subject to the provisions of the military service, but also all other young men as and when they attain nineteen years of age.

The Order removes the exemption now enjoyed by officers and men who have served in the Expeditionary Force, but who did not proceed further than Great Britain and have since returned to Canada and been discharged. They will be requested to serve if physically fit when their class is called.

TEN ENEMY TRAWLERS SUNK BY OUR GUNS IN CATTEGAT ON MONDAY.

LONDON, April 16.—Ten German trawlers have been sunk by gun fire in the Catt'egat (between Sweden and Denmark), the Admiralty announces. Their crews were saved by British ships. The operations in the Catt'egat, the statement says were undertaken by the commander in chief of the Grand Fleet.

The statement follows:—
"The commander in chief of the Grand Fleet reports having undertaken to sweep the Catt'egat on April 15. Ten German trawlers were sunk by gunfire, their crews being saved by British ships. There were no British casualties."

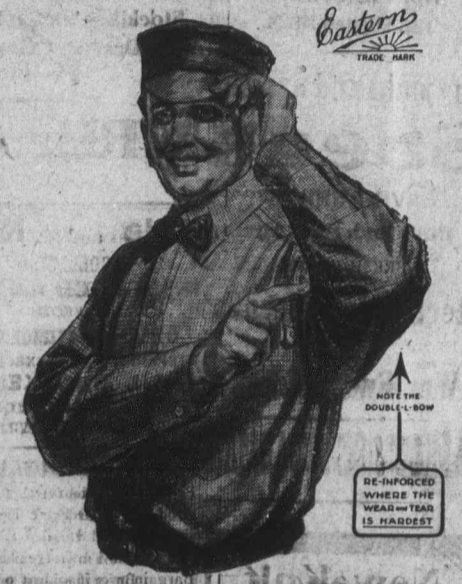
FIGHTING CONTINUES IN THE BAILLEUL SECTOR.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, April 16.—(By the Associated Press).—Bailleul, eight and a half miles east of Hazebrouck, in Flanders was captured and occupied by the Germans last evening when the enemy also seized Le Revetsberg ridge, east of the town. As a result the British pulled their lines back northward somewhat to positions running east and west a little above Bailleul and Le Revetsberg.

Fighting is continuing in this sector with the Germans trying to push westward toward the railways centre of Hazebrouck.

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