

VICTORIA CROSS DOES NOT COUNT

Ex-Soldier Who Lost Whole Family in War Now Cannot Earn Livelihood.

(Montreal Herald) "Take off that ribbon if you want work—it cuts no ice here." These words have been spoken not once, but many times, to a soldier of the late war who wears the coveted Victoria Cross. No man gets the distinction conferred upon him unless he has performed some great outstanding act of bravery. Corporal Joseph Harcourt-Tombs, V. C., of the King's Royal Liverpool Regiment, a man of good parents, 35 years of age, and whose mother and father, two sisters and a brother were killed in the war—the mother and sisters serving their country as nurses—has been in Montreal for nearly twenty months seeking work, and would today be starving if it had not been for the kindly offices of a Mrs. Bryan, 889 Rose Road, Rosemount, who has given him board and lodging and nursed him through illness. This soldier, who is ready to work at anything, is turned down wherever he seeks employment. Sometimes he is told to remove the coveted V. C. from his face that he is a liar and did not perform the valiant deed for which he was decorated. Corporal Tombs, V. C., is an Australian by birth, and his father was an officer in the British Army. His grandfather was Sir Henry Tombs, V. C., of Indian mutiny fame. The out-of-work V. C. enlisted in the King's Royal Liverpool Regiment in 1912, and was one of the first men to be sent to the war. He obtained his first V. C. by an act of heroism on May 10th, 1915, when he went out into the gas-swept no-man's-land to rescue a comrade who had been badly hurt in the body by shrapnel and was bleeding to death. The corporal, in the face of a heavy fire, sewed up the wounds of his comrade with an ordinary needle and cotton, and then carried him back to the trenches. His heroic conduct was rewarded by the award of the V. C. Corporal Tombs then returned to England, and served on recruiting work for some months. In August, 1918, however, he returned to the front. He was badly wounded. Tombs did not come through scathless during all his fighting years. He is badly knocked about. He has many wounds, and part of his face has been re-built, whilst pieces of shrapnel are said to be still embedded in his head. He is not

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Miss Ella Johnson Tells How Cuticura Healed Pimples

"My trouble began as small pimples and in a few months they got worse and my forehead was just a mass of large pimples. They were hard and red and caused me to scratch, and I was disgusted for the time. They made me embarrassed when out in company. I tried sassafras tea but it was of no help. I saw Cuticura Soap and Ointment advertisement and sent for a free sample. After using them I bought more, and when I had used one cake of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment for about a month I was completely healed." (Signed) Miss Ella May Johnson, Box 65, Canas, Idaho, March 9, 1920. Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Talcum promote and maintain skin purity, skin comfort and skin health often when all else fails.

by any means a physical wreck as might be supposed from all he has suffered but is a man capable of doing any light mechanical job or acting as a messenger. After the Armistice Corporal Tombs obtained his discharge with a pension and served as a ship's steward. In that capacity he came to Montreal on the Winesap about one year back. A Canadian officer on the boat, who was anxious to recruit soldiers with regular pensions, for the R. C. D's persuaded Tombs to enlist in that regiment. He did so and served for slightly over a year of which he spent in hospital at Quebec. Finding the work of the army too arduous the Corporal sought himself out of the regiment and came to Montreal to look for work. He then met Stanley Nelson Ewan, a comrade of his in the Liverpool Regiment, and a nephew of Mrs. Bryan. Ewan persuaded V. C. to make his home at his (Ewan's) aunt's. This he decided to do and from the first Mrs. Bryan took a great interest in him. She alleges that the treatment meted out to her protégé by the government and the public was disgraceful. He was not in a fit state for hard work or exposure, she declared, but he would work and was anxious to do so if any one would give him a chance—but take off his V. C. he shall not, she declared with emphasis. Last August Tombs obtained a job in the C. P. R. baggage room, but the strain of lifting heavy baggage was too much for him and he had to quit. He next tried working on the freight cars, but that made him dizzy and caused fainting fits, so he had to relinquish the work and get into the street again. Mrs. Bryan says that he undertook that class of work in sheer desperation to pay his way—the "is no loafing" she added. Just before last Xmas the Corporal V. C. obtained the position of messenger out of the leading city clubs. The work suited him but the exposure to the cold brought a breakdown within a few days. He was so ill and weak that Mrs. Bryan had to give him nourishment by the aid of a teaspoon. Fearing might lose his job Mrs. Bryan saw the Secretary of the club and explained the reasons for her protégé's absence. The Secretary said he believed Tombs was "foxing" but promised to keep his position open if he came back soon. When Tombs recovered his health he went to the Secretary to ask for an apology for the remark stating that he was "foxing." As this was refused the Corporal declined to retain his position. He was next offered \$40 a month and his board at one of the big hotels, but as he could not live on the amount he refused the service. Since then, although he has walked the streets day and night he has been unable to obtain a situation. He is not only badly in need of money but his wardrobe is depleted and he is wearing the left-off clothing of Mrs. Bryan's son.

Mrs. Bryan told The Herald that no one will believe Tombs' story, but that she knows it to be absolutely true, as she has seen the letter from the English war office conveying to Tombs the information that his V. C. pension had been increased. The V. C. Corporal has not received any pension money for the past seventeen months, but the authorities at Ottawa are taking up the matter for him. The amount in question ranges from \$200 to \$300. Will an employer find this V. C. hero a job?

PARROT AS WITNESS Mayor Entertained to Disprove Cruelty Summoned To disprove allegations of cruelty to a performing parrot, and entertainer, summoned at Kingston, England, called the bird itself as his principal witness. The parrot, a white one, belongs to Victor Niblo, music-hall artist, who was summoned at the instance of the B. S. P. C. A. for alleged cruelty by compelling the bird to go through a performance through fear at the Kingston Empire. An inspector of the society declared that when defendant banged on the

slided cage with a stick the parrot showed signs of terror, and asked "What do you want?" It also hung on the side thing to eat," remarked the unabashed of the cage, shrieked, and shrank back from the defendant as if it was afraid of him. Niblo, who stated that he had toured England and the Continent with his parrots for 14 years, denied cruelly cage the parrot touched his lips with its beak. "The parrot, in its cage, was placed on the ledge of the box. It greeted the Bench with: "Hallo, hallo! What's the matter today?" Having been admonished in the usual way that it was there as a witness, and same as that given on the stage. There must not ask questions, the bird subsided while arrangements were made by the defendant to give a performance. The witness then made a careful survey of the court, and, fixing the Mayor with a beady

eye, inquired: "What do you want?" No answer was vouchsafed. "I want something to eat," remarked the unabashed witness, and, following a tapping of the cage by defendant, abjured the tapper of him. Niblo, who stated that he had toured England and the Continent with his parrots for 14 years, denied cruelly cage the parrot touched his lips with its beak. "The parrot, in its cage, was placed on the ledge of the box. It greeted the Bench with: "Hallo, hallo! What's the matter today?" Having been admonished in the usual way that it was there as a witness, and same as that given on the stage. There must not ask questions, the bird subsided while arrangements were made by the defendant to give a performance. The witness then made a careful survey of the court, and, fixing the Mayor with a beady

stage, but would use either of his hands or handskerchief. WOULD PERMIT SALE OF ALE AND PORTER. Halifax Chronicle:—The climax of yesterday's long session of the house of assembly was duly celebrated at two o'clock this morning by the introduction of a bill by Hon. R. E. Finn, entitled an Act to permit the purchase of ale and porter for personal use. The preamble of the act says it may be cited as "The Brewers' Act," and provides that any registered brewer may sell to any person resident in Nova Scotia ale or porter manufactured in Nova Scotia by such registered brewer and intended exclusively for the personal use of the purchaser or of his family. The sale is restricted to one dozen quarts at one time. The

ale and porter mentioned within the scope of the bill shall contain not more than five per cent weight of alcohol. The board of vendors may from time to time make regulations respecting the sale and the price at which it may be sold. CONCERT IN WEST END. The choir of the Central Baptist church repeated its concert programme in the Charlotte street church, West St. John, last night before a large and appreciative audience. The choir was most capably conducted by A. U. Brander. The second Boy Scout troop of the Consolidated School at Rothway, of which C. T. Wetmore is scoutmaster, has been awarded the Wallace-Neilbit trophy in the first aid competition for the province of New Brunswick in 1920.

In error it was stated that this coveted trophy had been won by the Caletts. A Quick Relief for Headache A headache is frequently caused by badly digested food; the gases and acids resulting therefrom are absorbed by the blood which in turn irritates the nerves and causes painful symptoms called headaches, neuralgia, rheumatism, etc. 15 to 30 drops of Mother Selge's Syrup will correct faulty digestion and afford relief.

The NEW EDISON "The Phonograph with a Soul" The Price of the NEW EDISON has increased less than 15% since 1914 in the States. Mr. Edison has sacrificed millions in order to keep his favorite invention within the reach of everyone. Would you like to know Mr. Edison's Favorite Tunes? YOU know Mr. Edison, the scientist - now meet Mr. Edison, the music lover. Almost every day, Mr. Edison sits close to his Official Laboratory Model, hand cupped to ear, and enjoys his favorite RE-CREATIONS. Mr. Edison has his own private collection of RE-CREATIONS. He has built it up with the discrimination of a confirmed collector. We have just received a booklet containing 25 of his favorite tunes. This booklet is entitled "What Edison Likes in Music", and interestingly describes Mr. Edison, the Music Lover. If you would like a copy of this booklet, together with a 12" x 19" proof of Franklin Booth's etching of Mr. Edison, please fill out this ballot and mail or bring it to us. What other well-known person's favorite tunes would you like to know? Please write his or her name on the ballot. Mr. Edison's love of music has made the phonograph his favorite invention. He spent over three million dollars in research work to perfect the New Edison. Then, to prove its perfect realism, he stood the New Edison side by side with the living artist and matched its performance with the actual performance of the living artist. No one was able to detect any difference between the two. This is the only true way to prove the realism of a phonograph or talking machine - and the New Edison is the only phonograph which sustains this acid-test of direct comparison. A Gentleman's Agreement IF you love music, your credit is good here. Pay cash or suit your own convenience. Ask us about our Budget Plan. FREE - In addition to "What Edison Likes in Music", you can obtain a copy of the bulletin, "What Did Edison Do During the War?" and a proof of Booth's famous etching of Edison, suitable for framing. Just use the coupon. W. H. THORNE & CO., LTD St. John, N. B. BALLOT Bring or send this coupon. Mark the items you want. No charge or obligation. Name: Address: Whose favorite tunes would you like to know? [ ] What Edison Likes in Music. [ ] Booth etching of Edison, 12x19, for framing. [ ] Edison & Music—the Story of the New Edison. [ ] What Did Edison Do During the War? (Bulletin.)

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