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Newcastle Mourns Death of Respected Citizen

Honorable Allan Ritchie Passed Away on Sunday—Was One of the Miramichi's Most Successful Lumber Operators

The death of Hon. Allan Ritchie, one of Miramichi's largest lumber operators and most notable and respected citizens, took place Sunday afternoon after a lingering illness of about six months.

Deceased was born near Paisley, Scotland, on January first, 1848. He was the son of David Ritchie and his wife Mary Young both of Renfrewshire, Scotland, who came to Restigouche County, N. B., and settled near Campbellton, when deceased was about four years old. He received his early education at the public school of his community, and Campbellton High School, and completed his studies at Chatham. When 17 years of age, he became a clerk in the lumber business at Chatham, of his half-brothers, D. & J. Ritchie of Liverpool, which was superintended at Chatham by D. Ritchie. The firm at that time owned a wharf and had their Miramichi headquarters at Chatham and had their sawing done at various mills along the river owned by others. In 1868 the deceased and his brother Robert became partners in the business. Soon after this D. Ritchie left Chatham for Liverpool, and the Miramichi business of the firm was thenceforth carried on by the deceased and Robert. In 1871 they removed their headquarters to Newcastle where they bought the old Rundle mill site and erected the fine mill now standing there. By-and-by, Allan and Robert obtained complete control of the Miramichi end of the business, but still retained the old firm name. Robert died in 1907, and left the deceased, who later associated his sons with him, sole proprietor.

The deceased was very popular with his employees, of which he had a very large number. His business was very extensive, his annual lumber shipments being very heavy.

He was a man of sterling character, generous to a fault, honest in his dealings and known everywhere as one whose word was as good as his bond.

Deceased took great interest in public questions, and about 1890 was appointed to the Legislative Council, or Upper House of N. B., for whose dissolution he voted in 1893.

Mr. Ritchie was Newcastle's first Mayor, holding that office from 1898 to 1900, and he was afterwards an Alderman for several years—1900 to 1907 continuously, and again from 1909 to 1910.

At the time of his death he was President of the South West Steam Co., a position he had held for some 30 years.

He was a prominent member of the Church of England, Northumberland Lodge, F. & A. M.; and of the Newcastle Society at Miramichi, of which he was president for many years.

Deceased was married to Mrs. W. A. Hildon, and had two sons and two daughters.

Wisconsin; Arthur, of Rice Lake, Wisconsin; Mrs. Doherty, of Vancouver, and Miss Margaret, of Newcastle.

The funeral took place from his late residence at two-thirty yesterday afternoon and was the largest seen here in years. Services were conducted at the house by Rev. W. J. Bate, Rector, assisted by Rev. S. J. MacArthur, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, after which the body was



THE LATE HON. ALLAN RITCHIE

conveyed to St. Andrew's Church, where the Anglican burial service was conducted by Rev. Mr. Bate and Rev. Arch-Deacon Forsythe, of Chatham, who read the Lesson from First Chronicles, Fifteen Chapter and commencing at Verse twenty. During the service Hymns number 281 and 592 were rendered by the choir. After the service in the church the body was borne back to the hearse by the pall-bearers, Hons. L. J. Tweedie and J. P. Burchill and Messrs. J. D. Creaghan, W. A. Park, A. A. Davidson and W. B. Snowball, and the funeral cortege slowly wended its way to St. Paul's Cemetery, Bushville, where the body was laid to rest beside that of his wife, services being conducted at the grave by Rev. Mr. Bate.

The Mayor and Town Council attended the funeral in a body, and public men from all parts of the province were present to pay their last respects to the honored dead.

The floral tributes were many and beautiful and included the following:

Cross—Miss Ritchie and family.

Pillow—Mr. and Mrs. O. Nicholson and family.

Wreath—Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Stead, Chatham.

Cross—Hon. J. P. and Mrs. Burchill and family, Nelson.

Wreath—Mr. and Mrs. James Robinson and family, Millerton.

Wreath—Hon. L. J. and Mrs. Tweedie, Chatham.

Spray—Mr. Roderick and Miss McDonald, Paganak, N. B.

Broken Circle—Mr. and Mrs. E. A. McCurdy.

Wreath—Mr. George McAvity, St. John.

Spray—Mrs. W. A. Hildon and family.

Wreath—Mr. and Mrs. Wm. H. Hildon and family.

CANADA MAKES A PLEDGE TO EMPIRE OF HALF MILLION MEN

Sir Robert Borden Issues the Government's New Year's Message to the People of Canada—250,000 is Authorized Force, and 212,690 the Number Already Enlisted.

Ottawa, Dec. 31.—As a fitting New Year's announcement to the Canadian people and to the British empire, the prime minister gave out tonight the statement that the authorized Canadian force for overseas service is raised from a quarter million to a half million men.

The army of 250,000 hitherto authorized is now within sight. The latest figures of recruiting show a total of 212,000 men, exclusive of officers, called to the colors since the war began and for the past month recruits have been coming in at the rate of nearly 1,000 per day.

Now "as a token of Canada's unflinching resolve to crown the justice of our cause with victory and an abiding peace," the government has formally authorized a Canadian army of 500,000, or twice the number previously pledged to the Empire's fight.

NO PAUSE IN CANADA'S EFFORTS

The message issued to the Canadian people by the prime minister, from his sick room at his residence, is one of pride in what the men of Canada have done during the past year, of sympathy to those who have bravely suffered from the tragedies of war, and have learned the full meaning of sacrifice and of resolute and confident belief in the willingness of all Canadians to redouble the efforts of the past. There will be no pause in Canada's efforts, says the head of the dominion government, until the triumph of liberty throughout the world is assured.

What has already been done since August of last year in enrolling from an unprepared and unmilitary country a great fighting army, is shown by a brief memorandum given out today by the Militia Department.

Up to December 15 the number of men enrolled exclusive of officers was 197,690. Since then it is estimated the additional recruits have totalled 160,000. Counting officers, the total force enrolled for all purposes since the outbreak of the war is approximately 220,000. Of this total 118,922 have already been sent to Europe and 1,900 have gone to Bermuda and St. Lucia. Returned and invalided soldiers, now in Canada, total 1,971.

On the fighting line in France and Flanders there are now upwards of 50,000 of the men from Canada. In England, there are now approximately 60,000 men or enough for three new complete divisions.

THREE MORE DIVISIONS AT FRONT

The third Canadian division in France is almost organized and in the spring Canada will be in a position to place three more fully-equipped divisions at the front.

The task of raising half a million men is a stupendous one, but judging by what has been accomplished in the past sixteen months, starting suddenly without adequate preparation or equipment, the new task set for Canadians is one that can be faced "in the sure faith that they will never fail in their duty."

FULL TEXT OF PREMIER'S MESSAGE

The premier's message, which was issued from his residence, where he is lying ill, follows:

"More than a twelve month ago our empire consecrated all its powers and its supreme endeavor to a great purpose, which concerns the liberties of the world and the destinies of the nations.

"In the dawn of another year our hearts are more resolute than ever to accomplish that task, however formidable it may prove. By the greatness of the need our future efforts must be measured.

"Nowhere is the Canadian spirit more firm and unwavering than among the men who hold the trenches and those who will shortly stand by their side; nowhere is it more undaunted than in the hospitals and convalescent homes.

Already we have learned the full meaning of sacrifice. To all Canadian homes that have been saddened, to all Canadian hearts that have been stricken by the tragedy of this war, we pray that Divine blessing may bring consolation and healing.

NOT CRUSHED IN LEARNING LESSON

"Much had to be learned during the past fifteen months, because we had not prepared for this war. The strongest assurance of ultimate victory lies in the fact that we were not crushed in learning that hard lesson. Those who forced this war upon us may be assured, by the traditions of our past, that the lesson will be thoroughly learned to the end that there shall be enduring peace. The very character and greatness of the ideals for which we are fighting forbid us to pause until their triumph is fully assured.

"The Canadian forces at the front have indeed fought a good fight; and they have crowned the name of Canada with undying laurels. To them and to all the overseas forces now under arms, and awaiting the opportunity to do their part, we bid Godspeed in the sure faith that they will never fail in their duty.

"On this, the last day of the old year, the authorized forces of Canada number 250,000, and the number enlisted is rapidly approaching that limit.

"From tomorrow, the first day of the New Year, our authorized force will be 500,000.

"This announcement is made in token of Canada's unflinching resolve to crown the justice of our cause with victory and an abiding peace."

PREMIER'S MESSAGE TO TROOPS AT FRONT

Sir Robert Borden sent the following cable to Sir George Perley, acting high commissioner for the Dominion of Canada in London:

"Please convey the following message to the officers commanding the Canadian army corps in France, to the officers commanding the Canadians in England, and to the officers commanding overseas Canadian units, if any, not comprised above:

"On behalf of the Canadian people it is my duty and my privilege to convey to you the nation's greetings and their warmest wishes for success and victory in all your enterprises during the coming year.

"All Canada has been inspired by the splendid gallantry and the dauntless spirit of the Canadian forces at the front, and we realize the importance of their part in England to crown their part in France. We are proud of the part you are playing in the great cause of the world. No nation has done more for the cause of freedom and justice than Canada. We are proud of the New Year Canada bids you.

A Magnificent Challenge; A Sublime Opportunity

Year 1916 Greet Us in a Truly Royal Fashion—Right at Very Start Are Thrown Upon Our Honor, and Put Upon Our Mettle.

Shall we be able to meet the great demand or shall we fall down under an added responsibility? Shall we prevail mightily; or shall we be found grovelling before the greatest occasion in our lives?

Two things are asked of us at this time—Service and Prayer. Because hitherto the burden of life has rested lightly upon us, we have missed the soul of life. We have mistaken the tinkling cymbal "fun" for the full orchestral "joy."

WHAT IS JOY? There is a great passage in the Epistle to the Hebrews which runs thus—"looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross despising the shame." For the Saviour joy meant service. And service means prayer; for only the compelling power of the love

New Year's Message From Royal Highness

Further Appeals Made in Behalf of Canadian Patriotic Fund

Somewhat more than a year ago, as President of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, I made an appeal to the people of the Dominion for funds to assist the families of the gallant men who were going to the front. Though anticipating a generous response, I was hardly prepared for the magnificent manner in which the call was met. Monies have poured into the treasury of the Fund until the total contributions have reached and exceeded six million dollars.

Large, however, as this sum appears, it has not greatly exceeded current demands and, if peace were declared in the immediate future, the entire surplus on hand would be required before all the men of the Expeditionary Forces could again return home.

To-day there are 25,000 families, comprising, it is estimated, 80,000 individuals dependent upon the Patriotic Fund.

With further recruiting the demands upon the Fund will, with each succeeding month, continue to grow, so that it is estimated that, should the War continue during 1916, a sum amounting to some \$8,000,000 and probably more will be required. This would, however, only mean \$1 per head of the population for the people of Canada, and it is little indeed to ask of those who remain at home in comparison with the sacrifice in life and limb of those who are fighting in defence of the Nation.

In spite of all the various calls that have been made for funds to aid our soldiers and sailors and the magnificent response that has been made in each and every case, I still feel assured that the warm hearts of all Canadians will respond to this further appeal to enable the Patriotic Fund to continue its splendid work during 1916 and take care of the families of those who are fighting for their Sovereign, the Empire, and the Dominion, on the battlefields of Europe and on the High Seas.

(Signed) ARTHUR, President, Canadian Patriotic Fund.

of God, love for God and all things God himself loves can so exalt the soul as to make it capable of such service as Jesus Christ rendered humanity, and we today are asked to render our King and Country. And a study of the secret of Jesus puts it beyond dispute that prayer, daily prayer was the strength of that exalted life.

THE ISSUE STATED At last Germany is upon us. Britain and her Dominions are becoming alive to what neutral observers saw months ago, that Germany could only be beaten by the combined strength of Britain and British possessions added to the full strength of Britain's Allies. And so the time has come when we must choose between Germany whose god is MIGHT, and first law SELF, and Britain standing for right and the recognition of the rights of others.

WHAT GERMANY IS—ITS 35,000 ABANDONED GIRL WIDOWS

John the beloved Apostle said: "If we love another, God dwelleth in us." Yet in face of that Germany sanctions a man's taking a girl, living with her, raising children by her, and giving the man the right to turn that girl adrift when she comes to have any attraction for him, while he hands over her children to the state to be reared as the property of the state. And today there are 35,000 such unfortunates on the streets of Berlin. While across the trenches German soldiers flout their hatred thrusting up placards which read: "Remember Belgium, what we did to Belgium we'll do to you; and we will make your women tie our shoe strings."

WHAT BRITAIN NEEDS

Britain and Canada need two things before perfect service can be given: 1st—A revived interest in man as man; and 2nd—A renewed appreciation of the power of prayer. Then instead of trifling with sin of intemperance we will cast the evil thing out, and we will tramp out social vice for very love of the thousands of lives these destroy. And we will not do this saving act until we pray and live as we pray.

DARE WE REFUSE

Canada's present offer is 500,000 men. Can we do it? Will we do it? No man who measures fully the responsibility of this undertaking will answer lightly. Yet that it can be done and must be done at once no one dare deny. But the doing of this great work will mean the constant "lifting of the hands to God."

CITIZENSHIP ON A HIGHER PLANE

This demands the putting of our citizen responsibility upon a higher plane than what it has hitherto stood upon. To save the nation, to fight, is every man's duty and must be accepted as such. What we demand of our Military Leaders we must be ready to become ourselves. We expect them to be sober, then we must abstain. Men are joining the ranks today whose one weakness is drink. We must make it possible for them to qualify as soldiers. Russia did it, then why not we? Let us give all possible encouragement to the men who in our civic life are seeking to make conditions better what they need