

The St. John Standard

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1919.

THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

The information given last week by Mr. Herbert Ames to the executive of the Canadian Patriotic Society in St. John, Nova Scotia, the close of work unparalleled in the history of Canada. Since the organization of this society some fifty million dollars have been raised and paid out to dependents of soldiers overseas. A balance of eleven millions now remains which it is believed will be sufficient to meet the requirements of the society for a period of one year, by which time it is anticipated that all the men will have returned and the need for this fund will no longer exist. Naturally there will be a number of exceptional cases requiring aid for a longer period, but these will be comparatively few and a sufficient balance will be held in reserve to look after them. It can safely be said that since the beginning of the war no wives, children or other dependents of soldiers enlisting from Canada have been permitted to suffer and that the funds of the Patriotic Society have been applied in a manner beyond all criticism. The officers of local organizations have had to contend with many perplexing problems. They have had to hold the balance between generosity and fairness. If at times they have erred on the side of extravagance no one can blame them, and if, otherwise, they have seemed to withhold relief it has been done for very good reasons. Every cent contributed to this fund has been used for the benefit of those for whom it was intended. Not one dollar of contributed money has gone out for the payment of salaries, office rental or other expenses. These amounts have all been made up by interest accruing on deposits in banks, and expenditures on these accounts have been kept at a minimum, due largely to the fact that many persons have given their services free of charge. In an organization covering all Canada and with representatives abroad, it is worthy of note that not a penny of this fund has been misappropriated, that all accounts have been balanced, and that the whole machinery of the organization has gone along for more than four years without a hitch.

It is pointed out by Mr. Herbert Ames that many subscribers to the fund pledged their contributions in instalments, and that some of these instalments have yet to become due. It is only fair to those who have paid in full and fair to the society in general that these future payments be promptly met. The Society will need these funds, for the war is not over, the men are not yet home, and many thousands of families are depending to a very considerable extent on the amounts payable to them from this fund. Unless such payments are received it may at a future date be necessary to make another call on the people of Canada, but this can be avoided if payments of pledges are made in full.

The executive for New Brunswick is composed of busy men who, despite the many demands upon their time, have deeply interested themselves in the success of this most important movement, and who have devoted their ability to the successful administration of the fund in this Province. To those workers, to the various staffs, and to the volunteer helpers, the people of New Brunswick owe a debt of gratitude, as do the soldiers overseas and their families who have been the recipients of a bounty, not undeserved, but to some extent unexpected.

THESE MEN ARE NEEDED.

By the end of the present month all depot battalions in Canada will have been demobilized. There will remain under arms at various points certain mobile companies each sufficient to form the nucleus of a garrison, should enlargements be required at any time, and large enough to do police duty if called upon as well as to provide such staffs as may be needed for headquarters and departmental work. This will mean that we will have in St. John not more than two hundred and fifty men—perhaps a little less than that—under four or five officers. These companies will be composed almost entirely of men who have gone into uniform under the Military Service Act, who have not had opportunity of going overseas, but who have been in depot or garrison since enlistment. These men, or some of them, at least, entertain the impression that since the war is over their services are no longer required, and among them and among their friends there is the feeling that injustice is being done by holding them in uniform for so long a period. Pressure is frequently brought to bear on the military authorities for the discharge of some of these soldiers on the ground that they are wanted at home, that other positions are open to them, or that further detention in military service will prove detrimental to their future prospects. All these contentions are admitted, but on the other hand it is pointed out that the majority of men now under arms are men who might have enlisted earlier in the war, and thus have seen service overseas, that by failing to do so they have performed no military duty to their country,

ent boarding house to that the soup is so thin that she can eat it with her veil on.

Hard To Distinguish.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer—Five lunatics have escaped from an asylum near Chicago, and by mingling with the holiday crowds defied detection.

Caste Prejudice in Canada.

Toronto Globe—Peter Wright, the British seaman's delegate, says he finds a caste prejudice in Canada as strong as in India. It will do no harm if many Canadians think over that indictment.

A Hard Cash Gift.

London Free Press—What's in a name? Victory bonds or any other bonds, the fact remains that cold hard cash is the wedding present finally decided upon for the Princess Patricia from the women of Canada. It is to be hoped that the want of artistic sensibility in the gift is not to be taken as the measure of the sentiment of the whole body of our womanhood.

Causes Surprised.

Montreal Gazette—The Dances, it appears, are as surprising as the Canadians over the rumors that Greenland is to be ceded to Canada. As they have no desire to part with the country in question, and Canadians have never given a thought to the matter up to the present, why not let Denmark continue its control? Canada neither needs nor wants additional territory, having enough for many times her present population.

Better Britain.

Free Press—King George, in his address to the British parliament put himself on record as desiring above all things a "better Britain." To this end he urged the people to make good war's wastage, to lay aside individual interests, "to stamp out unprovoked poverty," "to raise the standard of well-being throughout the community." In fact, "to go over the top" of obstacles that still stood against national health, happiness and progress.

His Transmigration.

The New Success Magazine—A fresh young man was pressing a gentleman, who evidently felt bored, to give him an illustration of the transmigration of souls, showing how a person's identity might be maintained. A last of the gentleman replied: "Supposing you should die, your soul might appear in a canary bird; when the canary bird died it might reappear in a lion or a tiger; again it might reappear in a jackass—and I might stroke its ear and say, 'My dear fellow, you have not changed a bit.' Now, you have not changed a bit."

Knew the Doctor.

The People's Home Journal—"Hello, Dr. Bunyan? Yes? Come right away. My husband has another one of his spells." "Why didn't you send for me sooner?" said the doctor. "I don't know," said the woman. "You should not have waited till your husband was unconscious." "Well," replied the wife, "as long as he had his senses he wouldn't let me send for you."

A BIT OF VERSE

My Pal.
I'm the best pal I ever had;
I like to be with me;
I like to sit and tell myself
Things confidentially.

I often sit and ask me
If I shouldn't or I should,
And I find that my advice to me
Is always pretty good.

I never got acquainted with
Myself till here of late,
And I find myself a bully chum,
I treat me simply great.

I talk with me, and walk with me,
And show me right and wrong,
I never know how well myself
And I could get along.

I never try to cheat me—
I'm as truthful as can be—
No matter what may come or go
I'm on the square with me.

It's great to know yourself and have
A pal that's all your own;
To be such company for yourself
You're never left alone.

You'll try to dodge the masses,
And you'll find a crowd a joke,
If you only treat yourself as well
As all the other folk.

I've made a study of myself
Compared me with the lot,
And I'm the best friend that I've got.

Just got together with yourself,
And you'll be surprised how well
You'll like you if you do.
—Los Angeles Times

A BIT OF FUN

Every woman is born coquette but it is the clever one who manages to conceal it at the proper time.

One great trouble with the average is that when he gets started he doesn't know when to stop.

Old and New.
If wishes were horses all men would ride.
If wishes were airplanes all men would glide.

On The Water Wagon.
Hiram Hall of Grand Rapids has asked his court to permit him to change his name. He says the boys keep calling him H. Hall and it annoys him.

These Mad Ways.
I remember once seeing an animal with hind feet in front.
Some freak, what?

No freak at all—it was a hind—
Boston Transcript.

Cinching Posthumous Fame.
This passage, said the publisher, seems ambiguous to me. What do you mean by it?

I don't know, replied the great author; I left it there for the commenters of the literary clubs to work over when I'm dead.

Little Benny's Note Book.

BY LEE PAPE.

Yesterday after supper pop was shoveling the snow off the pavement and I was standing there watching him, saying, is it hard to get off, Pop?

It's darn near impossible, seed pop, why the dickens don't they have somebody shovel it off in the day time while its still soft instead of waiting till night and expecting me to do it after about a million people have waded on it all day.

And he kept on trying to scrape it off with the shovel and saying things to himself on account of properly not wanting to say them out loud, and I said, it would take a million people more than a day, wouldn't it, pop?

Even if I knew what you were talking about I properly wouldn't be interested, seed pop. And he kept on shoveling mad, and after a while I said, Snow is only frozen moisture, did you know that, pop?

Not this snow, this is frozen iron, seed pop.

And I looked at him shoveling it a while longer, saying, it wouldn't be near so much work if it was soft, would it, pop?

You're a brute lad, sometimes I wonder how you do it, seed pop. Meaning it wouldn't, and I said, Well, do you want me to get another shovel and take some soft snow out of the street and put it on the pavement for you?

Do you want the naysayers to hear your cries of pain? seed pop, and I said, No, sir, and pop said, Then you better take yourself for a walk ride away.

And he kept on shoveling and I started to say something else and changed my mind and went around to see if Pods Simkins was allowed at, with the warden, so went around to see if Leroy Shooter was, with he was.

Lawks, this war do open one's eyes, don't it? Fancy your son writing from Jerusalem—I always thought Jerusalem was in Heaven—London Opinion.

Sensible Girl.
Maud—I haven't heard you practicing on the piano since you got engaged.

Edith—No, I'm practicing on the gas range now.

One Place For It.
The world is full of poetry, sighed the poet, as he handed an effusion to the editor.

I don't know anything about the world, growled the editor. But I know that the wastebasket is.

Boisterous.
The freedom of the seas, said Gay, I would curtail, had I my way; With most of you who cross, said he, I think they make too bloomin' free.

Not a Colum.
Did you see Trajan's Column when you were in Rome?

Read it every morning.

Absent-Minded.
A lady, observing that a stranger in her pew had no hymnbook, politely offered him one.

Thanks, said the gentleman, but I never use a libretto.

Unkind Cut.
I just wish I could have gone over for a few of the men in the hospitals.

Oh, well, dear, they had enough cooks, and the hospitals were all pretty full as it was—Exchange.

But Reluctantly.
Poets are born; free verse writers are born with.

Teacher—Willie, do you love your enemies?

Willie—Yes'm—when I meet 'em all at once.

You say you are in love with Miss Backs?

I'm sure of it.

But I can't see anything attractive about her.

Neither can I see it. But it's in the bank, all right.

His lofty Views.
He was quite an unassuming chap before the great big row.

Now he looks down on common folk—He's an aviator now.

LLOYD GEORGE ON POST-WAR PROBLEMS

(Montreal Star.)
Lloyd George's speech in the House of Commons yesterday is one which should be read universally. Addressed to the public of Britain, it dealt with conditions and with dangers which are more or less general throughout the world.

As was to be expected, the Premier concerned himself principally with internal questions. He would probably have done so in any case, for questions of readjustment and reconstruction exceed in importance even those wider international problems arising from the peace settlement, but the very grave labor troubles which have so seriously threatened the national

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INTERCESSION FOR PEACE CONFERENCE

Churches Unite in Special Prayer for Delegates That Lasting Peace May Come to the World.

Yesterday, Sunday, was "Intercession Sabbath" throughout the whole Dominion of Canada, and, according to the requests of the Federal Government, the day was set apart as a day of intercession, so that those presiding at the Peace Table might be granted the grace of God, that their decision would forever be upheld in the world, and peace once more might be uppermost in all countries, and international relationship be cemented more closely in the future than in the past.

In accordance with the object of the day, special prayers were delivered in all churches of the city. In the Protestant churches special prayers were read by the pastors.

In the Catholic churches special prayers were offered up after the mass of the day, at which the congregations assisted. At all churches large congregations were in attendance at those services, when the special prayers were offered. At the nine o'clock mass in the Cathedral, celebrated by His Lordship Bishop LeBlanc, mention was made of the day by His Lordship, who in conclusion asked his congregations to enter into the mission of the day, so that lasting peace might shadow the world for the future.

COAL HANDLERS MET YESTERDAY

The Coal Handlers and Trimmers' Union, Local 810, met in session yesterday afternoon in their rooms, General Street. President Frank Prescone presided. Routine business occupied the attention of the members, after which special business came up for discussion. One of the questions arising was the refusal of the men of the union to bunker the "Empress," the boat plying between Digby and this city. The reason advanced by the men was that at a former time when the coal handlers went out on strike for higher hourly wage, the Dominion Coal Company refused to concede to their demands and ignored

The first days of the new year, the whole world trembled at the hideous thing rising civilization, a certain boiling the calamity about the world, set about calmly, to record history.

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