

The St. John Standard

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THE RETURNING SOLDIERS.

New that the soldiers are actually returning from Europe are brought face to face with the problem of their future. All the planning and theorizing of the past four years go for nothing in the presence of existing conditions and what we may have thought would be done is subject to readjustment now that something has to be done.

It is of course imperative that the men who have willingly gone overseas to serve in the ranks shall enjoy the gratitude of the people at home, such gratitude being expressed in a most satisfactory, material way. Yet the men themselves will have something to say along this line and their views, not yet generally expressed, must be given consideration. Speaking generally, it will be found that returned soldiers may be divided into three classes. There are, first of all, those who were independent before enlistment, and who are determined to remain independent hereafter. They desire nothing in the way of employment or other reward, but feel impelled to look out for themselves. Along with those will be others who have become imbued with the idea of independence and who will prefer not going back to their former occupations and associations. With this first group of men we will experience no difficulties, for they will settle their own future.

In the second group are those who will be quite content to resume their former occupations, who hope that their positions will be open for them, but who, with confidence in themselves, are not worrying greatly, feeling that perhaps the natural gratitude of their friends will enable them to settle down without delay into their normal lives. To the case of these men much thought will have to be given.

The third class consists of those who will expect perhaps more than their respective communities are immediately able to give them. It is altogether probable that there will be in the groups of returned men numbers who will anticipate, and indeed demand, very generous treatment. They will be entitled to it, but in providing this treatment difficulties will be encountered, and it may be that unless we go very carefully into justice will be done to those who have remained at home.

During the period of the war Canada has had to carry on as formerly. Positions vacated by able-bodied men who have gone overseas have been filled as well as possible by those physically unfit for military service by older men, and by women. These people have worked all the harder because of their disability, and have come to depend for their livelihood on the positions which they have occupied during the past three or four years. Must they now be dismissed in order to make room for the returned soldier? Apparently this is the proper course for us to pursue, but it will be hard upon those who have served so faithfully in the emergency and who have done their best at home and were pregnant, through no fault of their own, from going overseas.

It would be very injudicious to disturb the whole industrial system of Canada in order that we may hurriedly make room for returned men, and on the other hand it would be very ungrateful not to provide for those returned soldiers until normal conditions are restored. Because every community will have its own problems of this nature, because every employer will be faced with the same difficulty, it looks as though the central authority of the Federal Government should offer its services towards solving the difficulties which we will thus face, either in the way of an advisory board, or by financial aid to the soldiers until such time as employment can be readjusted. It is just as impossible that many thousands of able-bodied returned men should continue for a long period in enforced idleness as it is that numbers of less capable workers should be thrown out of employment without having ample opportunity to make new arrangements.

DISHONEST MILK.

Yesterday afternoon there was brought to the Principal Bacteriologist for examination a bottle of milk which had been purchased by a lady in this city from a local milk dealer as whole milk, and for which she had paid at the rate of fourteen cents per quart. This sample, when tested, was found to contain one and a half per cent. of fat. This is less than one-third of what the content should be as a minimum, and is less than one-quarter of what good milk should contain. This sample was either watered or skimmed. It is the poorest specimen that has so far been submitted for examination. A few days ago another sample was found to contain slightly over two per cent. of fat, and in it there was left a white substance which did not yield to acid treatment and which is evidently a chalky substance put in watered milk for the purpose of whitening it. Other samples recently examined have been found to contain a much smaller percentage of fat than should be the

case, indicating beyond question that milk on sale in St. John by certain dealers is either skimmed or watered before being sold and is, after such treatment, sold as whole milk. The seriousness of this condition is apparent. In only one instance so far has the bacteriologist found a sample that was up to the standard, although it is true that he has not yet examined samples from all dealers in the city. The one good specimen was milk received at the General Public Hospital, where it is used for the patients, and where of course the very highest quality is required. And in the case of mothers who are endeavoring to bring up their children on milk purchased from supposedly reliable dealers, it is seen that these children are receiving, in some cases, only one-third of the nourishment they should be obtaining, and that invalids drinking milk on the orders of their physicians are deprived of the sustenance which those physicians believe them to be getting.

It is clear that although the price of milk in St. John is as high as in any other part of the Dominion, many of our people are paying this high price for a commodity not worth one-half what it is costing them. Unfortunately the regulations governing the sale of milk in this community were drafted in the middle ages, and it is a very difficult matter to prosecute and secure convictions under those regulations. Now that we have a public health department, that department which has had nothing else to do since its organization, judging from results, might well turn its attention to the question of milk supplies, and formulate such regulations as will impose upon milk dealers full responsibility for the product which they sell. Make those dealers liable, instead of trying to follow the milk from the consumer back to the farmer who first supplied it, and we will very soon find an improvement in the quality of the product sold in this city.

MOVING TROOPS.

The Olympic, with five thousand troops, docked at Halifax Saturday morning. The Minnedosa, with fifteen hundred soldiers and civilians, docked at St. John on Saturday morning. Telegraphic reports from Halifax were to the effect that the Canadian Government Railway staff were on their mettle and lost no time in getting their trains started. Perhaps the Halifax report of time occupied in handling the five thousand soldiers was slightly exaggerated. At any rate, instead of eleven trains leaving Halifax within twelve hours, seven trains got away from there by Saturday evening, and the remaining trains followed on Sunday. It is understood that the last of the soldiers left the pier city at seven o'clock and nine o'clock Sunday night, some thirty-six hours after the ship docked. There is no fault to be found with this, but it is wrong to convey the impression that under the present system of demobilization troops can be paraded on the deck of a ship and marched directly on board the waiting trains. This is not how the thing is done at all. Soldiers who are now returning are given furlough. They are bled to some particular dispersal point, have the privilege of taking a trip from there, and return, and after receiving their discharge are granted transportation home. For all of this each soldier must have his furlough documents, his ticket to the point of distribution, his return ticket to the place he desires to visit, and his transportation home. Under present conditions this work is done at the cost of arrival, so that for a bunch of five hundred soldiers it is necessary that as many as four thousand individual tickets be made out, registered, all particulars taken, confirmed by their furlough papers, which are also made out, and pay cheques and cash given the men before leaving the port of arrival. In the case of the Olympic, a very large proportion of the men were bled for Quebec, and these simply marched aboard the train without receiving transportation or anything else. The result is that while the time was saved at Halifax for those men who left there on Saturday, they are still in Quebec awaiting the necessary documents before proceeding farther. This was not done with all the soldiers on the Olympic, but a large number destined for other points had to wait until the necessary work was completed, and for this reason they did not get away until Sunday night.

In the case of the Minnedosa in St. John harbor, there were no soldiers permitted to go aboard the trains until all the documents required by them were in their possession, and it was for this reason that eleven hours elapsed after the ship docked before the men went forward. But once started they have gone right through and will not be held at any distribution point to await completion of work which should have been done in St. John. This present method is a very awkward one. It should not be necessary to detain soldiers in Halifax or St. John for a day or longer, waiting for papers that could just as well be prepared ahead, and it is to be hoped that the improved system

whereby this work is accomplished on the other side will very soon be brought into operation.

MOVING PICTURES.

The Standard prints this morning a letter from Mr. W. H. Golding with reference to certain editorial matter published in this paper on Saturday last. Mr. Golding, as manager of a picture house, naturally sees things from his own standpoint, and his arguments in support of the altogether too frequent display of American flags, and American soldiers and the dominating influence of American film products to the exclusion of Canadian material are able to provide. It is a careful attention.

There is a story told of two North Shore men, one of whom fell overboard on a yachting trip, and was rescued by the second. It was the former's complaint that the remainder of his life that he complained did not let him down, as he would rather have been dead than be so often reminded that his life had once been saved. As Mr. Golding remarks, we recognize in the United States an important and worthy ally, but this does not reconcile us to the fact that we are constantly reminded of it by the frequent presentation of pictures such as have been referred to, and with which this country has been flooded. For how long a time would the United States stand similar preponderance of Canadian flags, Canadian soldiers, and other Canadian institutions in their moving picture houses?

The Toronto Star is worried. It hears a rumor that Sir Joseph Flavelle and Sir Arthur Currie are to be honored by the Crown, and that their war work recognized. The Toronto Star does not like this. The proprietor of the Toronto Star is undoubtedly annoyed. He has done very little to help win the war, so why should anyone else receive honor? He has swung the influence of his paper to the side of those who have endeavored to obstruct the efforts of Canada's Union Government. The Toronto Star does not like people who have been doing other things and naturally will not like to see them rewarded.

We have not yet heard that Premier Foster has given instructions that Campbell should be paid six per cent. interest on his sinking fund. Is he still depriving that town of the two per cent. to which it is entitled?

WHAT THEY SAY

The Whining Bagger.
(The Evening News.)
From a highwayman demanding largesses at the point of a gun the Hun has become a mendicant begging alms, and his bathos now is as nauseating as his boasting was disgusting.

Protecting Their Markets.
(San Francisco Chronicle.)
Austrian economists seem to think they have a right to ask for free trade with America. What crime has America committed that her markets should be presented freely to the foreign competitor? Our manufacturers have paid their taxes and should be protected, not punished.

The Symbol of Democracy.
(London Daily News.)
Cigarette smoking is correct bedroom form. He is an unworthy fellow, a rascal, who would make his burnt offering to heaven from the bowl of a pipe. A pipe is far too coarse and brutal for the refined and delicate courtesies of sickness. It is essentially German, and built for concrete skulls. Moreover, it is stoddy and middle class. A cigarette is the apt symbol of democracy, and a token of love, romance and adventure. Bled detectives smoke pipes; the cigarette is beloved of invincible criminals and six-shilling heroes.

Moribund Parties.
(London Daily Mail.)
All the parties have held their party meetings, and the result is, happily, that we are to have a non-party election. All that the elector has to do, therefore, when the day of the general election arrives, is to go to the poll and vote. But what the elector wants to know is what nobody has yet explained to him, namely—what he is to vote for, and what is to be the result? The two old parties, Unionist and Liberal, are still in existence, because they are not formally dead. They are not dead, but there is no life in them. Neither of them could agree upon a coherent progressive policy such as our people now demand, because both of them contain men who hold opposite views upon the vital questions that will have to be answered in the near future.

A BIT OF FUN

A Popular Tale.
"What are you reading?"
"A tale of buried treasure."
"Waiting your time on fiction?"
"No. This is expert advice on how to plant potatoes."

Unkind.
"The Jones live in a cottage directly on the lake side."
"Then what do they mean by asking their friends to drop in?"

His Preference.
She (fond of cheap shawls)—How that you know found over my arm what would you like to have me play?
—Cards.
"Water," he called, sniffing the air suspiciously, "never mind that order

Little Benny's Note Book.

By LEE PAPE.

Me and Feds Shimkins and Sid Hunt and Leroy Shooter was working along just working along, and we saw a basket of apples standing against a wall as if it didn't have anywhere else to go. Leroy Shooter says, "Gosh, look at the basket of apples all alone."

Sumbdy must of thart they wanted them and changed their mind agin. I sed, and Sid Hunt sed, Lets wate 5 minuts and then if nobody comes for them we can take them according to law.

G, all rite, lets, we all sed. And we started to wate 5 minuts, Sid Hunt saying, We hant to wate, and if anybody ansers the wate, we'll take 'em. G, it we watteries we found a basket of apples, sumbdy's libel to say they lost them, was they didn't, and how would we know the differnt?

Wich how would we, and Leroy Shooter sed, I know, lets just say in the advertment, Found, a basket full of sumthing rund, and then if sumbdy comes and says orldges they can just keep on saying it.

Being a good idea, any jest wen we was going to take around the corner we let sumbdy run in back of us, being the tall red headed man that delivers groceries for the grocery store, yelling, Hay, hay, do you kids all want to go to jail? I'll dust your pants good for this.

Proberly meaning with his feet, and he grabbed ahold of me and Sam Cross, the rest running like the dickins, and me and Sam explained to him that we thart, it was lost, and he sed we better quit thinking, and he gave us about 4 shakes each and made us pull the basket of apples in Sam's impress waggia to wate they was apposed to go, being a heck of a wate.

now, I can never eat when there's a smell of fresh paint around.

"If you'll just wate a few minuts, sir," replied the watter, "them two young ladies will be going."

THE EDITOR'S MAIL

MOVING PICTURES.

St. John, N. B.,
Dec. 16th, 1918.

Editor Standard:
Dear Sir—I read with interest your editorial observations on the use of the American flag in motion picture productions shown on the American picture houses make greater, it is not exclusive use, of British film products to overcome this alleged defect in their programmes. It is ill-timed because it is most important and worthy ally at this critical juncture and misleading because for a long time—years in fact—American producing firms have taken cognizance of this point and avoided it as much as possible.

The flimsy part of the oft-heard remark that Canadian theatres should use British films exclusively lies in the cold fact that British films do not make enough good pictures to supply trade on this side of the water. This is not said in disparagement of Old Country, but it is an unfortunate fact. It is the film service of the universe and fully canvasses the movie situation the world over.

Further, in no part of the world, especially since the war, has the cinematograph art been so graphically and literarily as in the United States. The American output is now as in London as in St. John. It is the film service of the universe and fully canvasses the movie situation the world over.

But to say that Canadian theatres should use British films exclusively—so suggested by the strenuous and somewhat dictatorial Mr. (censor) McGarry, of Ontario—is to overlook the mark and to throw the argument into the discard as unreasonable and bull-headed. We are all good Britishers in the picture business in St. John and elsewhere in Canada, and will stick to British things as much as possible, but for the same reason that newspapers are printed on American presses, are set up by American type machines; that the populace buys American periodicals, everybody wears something American each day, calls American food, buys American Sunday papers, listens to American travelling shows—how many Canadian or British are there?—just for that reason, may I say, the picture theatres are forced to screen American movies.

The flag objection is growing less

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