SOLDIER SETTLEMENT BOARD ACCOMPLISHES SPLENDID WORK

A Summary of Its Activities for the Year Affords Ample Testimony of the Government's Wisdom in Resolving on a Programme of Substantial Financial Aid to Soldiers Seeking the Farmers' Vocation.

(Ottawa Journal, December 20, 1919)

A summary of the work of the Soldier Settlement Board of Canada during the year about to close, affords ample testimony to the wisdom of the Government in early resolving on a programme of granting substantial financial assistance to discharged soldiers who desire to follow farming as a permanent vocation.

It was only in February of this year that the project of soldier land settlement reached its full development. Prior to that time there had been slow progress, for the reason that the law contemplated assistance only to those who were able to secure free Dominion lands in the Western Provinces. Free lands of first class quality close to lines of transportation, were not available in sufficient areas; and it was not until February that provision was made for the purchase of land in any part of the Dominion and for generous loans to soldiers taking up such land. At the same time steps were taken to bring under the control of the Soldier Settlement considerable areas of more or less idle lands contained in Forest and Indian Reserves throughout the Western Provinces. Large tracts of these lands have been disposed of. Others will be made available for settlement within a short time.

A glance at the record of achievement of the Board is convincing proof of the popularity, among the returned soldiers, of the Soldier Land Settlement scheme. Briefly the Board has approved loans amounting to over fifty million dollars ($50,000,000). The number of loans exceeds 17,000—which means that the average obligation undertaken by returned soldiers is in the neighborhood of three thousand dollars, ($3,000). A total of 1,440,000 acres of free lands have been disposed of to returned soldiers. The Qualification Committees of the Board have tested and passed 32,363 candidates. Training farms have been established in several of the provinces. Substantial allowances have been paid to returned soldiers in training on these farms and gaining experience with experienced agriculturists. An important item also is the saving of close to one quarter of a million dollars that the Board effected in the purchase of live stock and implements for returned soldiers.

It will be seen that this beneficient scheme places within the reach of many thousands of war heroes an opportunity of independent existence, far from the strife and turmoil of the congested districts. As the Calgary Herald states: "It is turning out one of the greatest re-establishment successes the Government has yet undertaken."

CONTROVERSY BETWEEN STATES AND BRITISH OVER GERMAN SHIPS ENDS ABRUPTLY

President Orders Seven German Ships Turned Over to British Admiralty Today—Great Britain Still Retains American-Owned Tankers That Were Taken Under German Flag.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 26.—The controversy between the Shipping Board and British officials over possession of seven German liners used to bring back American troops and now held idle in New York harbor ended abruptly today with the announcement that President Wilson had ordered the vessels turned over to Great Britain. No explanation of the order was made beyond the statement that the State Department had found there was no warrant for holding the ships now that the object for which they were assigned by the Inter-Allied Shipping Commission to America—the return of the American army— was accomplished. The eighth ship of the group, the Imperator, has already been turned over to the British and is being operated by the Cunard line. The unexpected action of the shipping board last September in refusing to deliver the Imperator to the British was understood to be connected with efforts to induce the return to the Standard Oil Company of twelve tank steamers formerly under the German flag, but now held in British custody in the Firth of Forth by order of the Supreme Council.

The State Department took the position, however, that these were separate questions and must be dealt with separately, the United States carrying out its obligations to turn the German ships over to the British.

Meantime the fate of the tankers remains in doubt. Chairman Payne recently made a proposal to the Supreme Council that, pending adjustment of titles, the tankers be put at the disposal of the United States and that Great Britain be given use of the former German liners. Great Britain agreed to this proposal, it was learned today, on the condition that the United States would furnish Great Britain, France, Italy and Belgium oil, but, it is reported, withdrew her acceptance the day after it was transmitted. No explanation of the reported withdrawal was obtainable.

In the absence of Chairman John Barton Payne, the board today was without knowledge of the disposition of the tankers. In view of the world-wide shortage of tankers it would be a hardship to the United States, it was declared, if these American owned vessels should be turned over to other countries. Officials express the hope that the tankers would eventually be placed at the disposal of the United States.

Under Versailles Treaty, final decision as to the titles of all craft requisitioned from German harbors after the armistice rests with the reparation committee. The present dispute both as to passenger vessels and to the tankers, it is asserted, cannot be considered as definitely settled, the present disposition being only temporary.

DISTINGUISHED WAR WORKER

Vancouver is enjoying a visit from a most distinguished English woman at the present time, says the Winnipeg Telegram.

Starting her war work as a statistic recorder for munition factories and ending by winning an O. B. E. for her special services in connection with the study and treatment of poisonous gases. Dr. Cossley-Batt, D. Sc., London, has had a remarkable career since she left her studies at the London university early in the war. She arrived from Australia on the Makura, and after a short stay in Vancouver will go on to New York. Miss Batt was elected by General Byng as assistant recorder of the chemical warfare committee when the British government formed a special department to deal with the gas problem. She was poisoned on one occasion while carrying out one of a series of experiments undertaken as part of her research work. In consequence of ill health induced by the gas inhalation she was subsequently obliged to relinquish her special studies and secured a transfer to a position as senior woman inspector of the Optical Institute, where she also distinguished herself. During her tour of Australia and New Zealand, taken primarily for the purpose of obtaining material for trade articles for the London Times, Dr. Cossley-Batt has been delivering lectures on her experiences and observations.

FAMOUS BEAUTY DIES IN BERLIN

Scandal of the German Court Recalled by Death of Baroness Liebenbey.

("Daily Express" Correspondent)

Berlin, Nov. 29—A scandal of the former Imperial Court is recalled by the death of the Baroness Liebenberg, which is just announced.

The late baroness was in her younger days a girl of remarkable beauty. She was the daughter of a Jewish school teacher named Sulzer, who lived in Vienna, and ran away to go on the stage. After a brief spell of touring she obtained an engagement in Berlin, where thanks to her beauty, she speedily became a popular favorite.

Prince Joachim Albrecht of Prussia, a cousin of the ex-Kaiser, and a son of the late Prince-Regent of Brunswick, fell a victim to the actress's charms, and a close friendship sprang up between them, which was viewed with stern displeasure at the Imperial court.

The prince refused to give up the lady's society, however, whereupon the displeasure of Wilhelm was heavily visited on him. He was sent in disgrace to German South-West Africa in order to part him from his beloved.

She, in the meantime, journeyed to London, where, in accordance with a plan proposed by Prince Joachim, she wedded Baron Lisbenberg, an Austrian nobleman. It was intended that her husband should allow himself to be divorced, and it was hoped that, as the lady was now a baroness, there would be no objection in court circles to the prince marrying her.

The scheme, however, fell through, as the baron held out for better terms. The prince returned from exile, more in love than ever; the old friendship was resumed. The Emperor was furious. An intrigue with an actress was bad enough, but an affair with a married woman, and a baroness, was impossible.

So the Prince was dismissed from the army and banished from the court. But fate had a happy ending in store for the devoted lover. The baron was obliging enough to die a few months later, and the Prince lost no time in marrying his beloved, with whom he retired to his country estate.

The happy ending of this romance was completed when, at the death of the prince's grandfather, the Duke Ernst of Sachusen-Altenburg, it was found that he had bequeathed to his grandson the sum of five and a half million marks (£275,000).

"They tell me that a little learning is a dangerous thing."

"Oh, never mind. You're still a long way behind the danger line."

CANADIAN FOOD CONTROL SYSTEM WINS IN FAVOR

The Plan Adopted by the Dominion to be Brought to the Attention of Congress.

New York, Dec. 26.—Proposed adoption of the Canadian system of food control to reach profiteers and lower the cost of living in this country met with favor here yesterday, following an announcement that Arthur Capper, United States Senator from Kansas, intends soon to place the matter before Congress.

"I am inclined to favor the Canadian system," said Arthur Williams, the federal Food Administrator here. "But I should like to see the added proviso that the margin of profit be fixed on the retailer as well as the consumer. As a matter of fact we have gone the Canadians a step farther in New York city and have fixed both the gross and net profits. We have agreed upon the margin of profits on all staples, and the margin is placed in cents per pound, rather than in a percentage. Thus, if there happens to be an upward trend in prices, the consumer does not have to foot the extra bill.

Dealers Play Fair.

"It is not hard to get fair dealers to agree on a fair margin of profit, and when these dealers agree they carry along with them by moral force the dealers who would otherwise have been reluctant. The backing of the government has, of course, a large influence, too."

Senator Capper believes that the installation of the Canadian system will furnish a powerful remedy against the increasing cost of living, which he views with grave alarm.

The Canadian food control act fixes a limit on gross profits. In this provision lies the main difference between it and the American food control act, which Senator Capper is inclined to believe is not proving equal to the situation.

"Unless we speedily check price gouging, the high cost of profits is soon to be translated into the excessive cost of existence and an unbearable situation will arise," declared Senator Capper in a speech made in the Senate a few days ago.

"The war is over, but speculation, spoliation and plunder are as rampant as ever and more daring. Train robbery or burglary are poor trades by comparison. Nine months ago a dollar would buy five pounds of coffee; today it will buy only two pounds.

"A nickel sack of tobacco now costs ten cents, and inside it the smoker finds a little card which reads: "Special Notice!—This package should be sold for five cents. Your dealer makes a fair margin of profit at this price. I have it from a lumberman who has spent all his life in the business, that lumber is selling at least at thirty per cent beyond all reasonable profit.

Will Demand More Wages.

"And so it goes and will continue to go until we beggar the people, lower consumption and kill demand unless we find and apply the means to check the game of grab which is at the bottom of most of our present troubles. Men working for wages may be expected to keep asking for more. They must if a family of five is to be shod with eighteen dollar shoes and supplied with other wearable and eatables at constantly increasing prices.

"Profiteering is now a prison offence, and I hope to see governments actively assisting the federal Department of Justice in bringing all such offenders to book."

Senator Capper declared that the profiteers of big business are proving a greater menace to the country than the Bolshevists or the I. W. W.'s. "I am inclined," he said, "to think that as an emergency measure it might be well to give the Federal Government power to limit gross profits, as Canada has been doing so successfully, requiring every dealer or manufacturer, from the time the raw material leaves the hands of the producer until the product reaches the consumer to mark the most price to him on all his goods, also his own selling price and be prepared to show invoices. This will make it possible quickly to spot the man who is doing the profiteering."

MORE U. S. NAVY OFFICERS JOIN ADMIRAL SIMS

Newport, R. I., Dec. 26.—Word that Vice-Admiral Hilary F. Jones and Captain R. D. Hashbrouck had followed the example of Admiral Sims in declining to accept decorations awarded them in the recently published navy list was received in naval circles here tonight.

AVIATOR'S BODY WASHED ASHORE ON CORFU ISLAND

British Airman Lost His Life in London to Australia Flight on December 12th.

London, Dec. 26.—The body of Captain C. E. Howell, one of the British airmen in the London to Australia flight, who lost his life when his machine was wrecked off the Island of Corfu on December 12, was washed ashore on Corfu and buried at the foot of a beautiful mountain by an English chaplain, according to a Corfu despatch to Lloyds under Wednesday's date. The body of Henry Fraser, a skilled mechanic who accompanied Captain Howell, has not yet been found. Howell's airplane is a complete wreck and salvage is impossible because of bad weather.

LUMBER IMPORTS TO GREAT BRITAIN

Farnworth & Jardine's Wood Circular Received from Liverpool Gives Statement of N. B. and N. S. Spruce and Pine Deals Received in November.

Farnsworth and Jardine's wood circular received from Liverpool, Eng., yesterday shows the following imports from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia dated 1st December for the month of November:

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Spruce and Pine Deals.—The import to the Mersey (including the Manchester Canal) was small, viz.: 2,050 standards, the bulk coming to Liverpool. Deliveries evenly distributed between the two ports, amounted to 4,250 standards. Holdings are on the high side, now reaching 24,900 standards, of which a large portion consists of narrow widths, and values of this description are easier. Deals are in good demand at full rates. During the month a Sale Without Reserve was held in Liverpool of a damaged cargo of Halifax Spruce stored in Preston. Full values were obtained. Pine Deals—The Import was small; deliveries fairly satisfactory from the cargo reported last month. Stocks are moderately light.

MEXICO WARNED BY WASHINGTON TO END OUTRAGES

U. S. Ambassador Conveys Fresh Message of Protest to the Carranza Government.

Washington, Dec. 26—The mistreatment of American citizens by bandits and by the authorities of Mexico continues to add to the tension existing between the Mexican and the United States governments. The demands that have been made by Washington have had no apparent effect and the situation is growing larger on the administration's horizon.

Following the release of Frederick Hugo, an American citizen taken in the recent raid on Muzquiz Sinalca, upon his promise to pay his bandit captors a ransom of $1,500, the State Department today instructed the American Embassy at Mexico City to say to the Mexican Foreign Office that "such outrages must not be repeated." The Embassy was also instructed to make representations in behalf of two American sailors held in jail at Mazatlan since November 12, charged with a breach of the peace.

Expect Wilson to Act

That these representations will be effective is doubtful in view of the futility of similar declarations made in the past, according to men in Washington who have been in touch with the Mexican situation. The conclusion has been reached that it is the purpose of the administration to make some definite move before long intended to clear up the whole situation, and that early in the new year the American policy will be outlined.

The State Department was advised today that Hugo was released upon his agreement that within twelve days he would pay a ransom of $1,500, and that when Muzquiz was raided the bandits carried away from American owned ranches in the vicinity approximately 100,000 pesos, 148 horses and large quantities of food. The department's advices also stated that while the bandits numbered only 400, a Mexican federal force of about 750 men and six machine guns, commanded by Generals Ricaut and Peraldi, was within less than forty miles of the scene of the raid, but no steps were taken to relieve Muzquiz until after the Villistas evacuated the town.

Sailors Still in Jail

In response to recent inquiries the American Consul at Mazatlan today advised the State Department that the two American sailors, Leonard and Martin, who were arrested by civil authorities on November 12, were still detained by the Mexican courts on "various pretexts." The Embassy at Mexico City was immediately instructed to make representations to the Mexican government in behalf of the two men.

MEXICANS CLOSE ANOTHER AMERICAN WELL IN TAMPICO

Kingston, Ja., Dec. 26.—The car conductors and motormen have struck for higher pay. A Canadian company, which operates the street railway, is suffering heavy losses. Under the terms of the franchise the Government will have the power to take over the affairs of the company if the service is not resumed in forty-eight hours. The pilots have refused to bring in or take out vessels unless their fees for this service are increased.

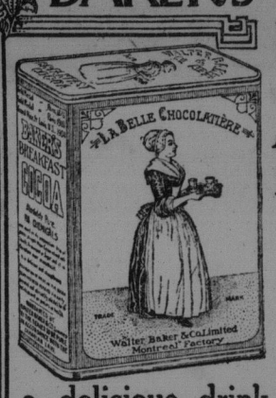
SOCIAL SERVICE WORKER RECEIVES HEAVY SENTENCE

Plead Guilty to Three Charges of Forgery—Forged Names of Officials of Society.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 26—H. G. Gardner, social service worker, who pleaded guilty two weeks ago to three charges of forgery, was sentenced today to 18 months in jail. Gardner obtained $400 by forging the names of officials of a Jewish society.

He gave the money to his wife and fled to Chicago, where he was arrested three weeks ago.

BAKER'S COCOA



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A good program for the United States this winter: Export—import—deport—Seattle Times.

Who's Who In the Presidential Race

So many good Americans have never before aspired to the Presidency at this early stage of the campaign, we are assured by competent authorities on things political. As the Baltimore Sun (Ind.) remarks: "Democrats and Republicans have been popping up all over the country, stretching themselves to their greatest height and craning their necks with the hope that the Presidential lightning may hit them." The newspapers, generally cautious about committing themselves in favor of any candidate while politics is in such an uncertain stage, are, however, commenting more freely and dispassionately upon the various Presidential aspirants than they are likely to do later, when the lines are drawn more tightly.

This very fact enables THE LITERARY DIGEST to present to its readers, in this week's number, and well in advance of the primaries, the chief merits and demerits of the principal contestants for the Presidential nominations as seen by the men themselves, by their friends, or by the newspapers most familiar with their records.

Other news-articles in this number of the "Digest" of wide and current interest are:

What Labor Wants
Causes of America's "Crime Wave"
The Wets Find the War is Still On
Europe Calls for American Aid
Another Warning to the Legion
Britain Abandons Russia
German Plots in Alsace-Lorraine
Japan Planning a Bigger Navy
Effect of Prohibition on the Hospitals
Sending Wireless by Machine
Effect of Temperature on Business
Gravitation of Light
Our Windy Sky-scrapers
States of Mind Over Kreisler
Our Literary Manners and Mr. Wells'
American vs. Continental Sundays
Warnings Against Spiritualism
Best of the Current Poetry
Indians in the United States—A Brief History
Personal Glimpses of Men and Events

Many Fine Illustrations Including the Best of the Cartoons in the World's Press.

ANNUAL MOTOR NUMBER—152 PAGES

Millions of men and women who make up the Motor Public will read the advertisements in this issue. Dealers in Cars, Trucks, Tractors and Motor Accessories know that throughout the year every issue of The Digest carries a number of Motor-product advertisers' announcements and this issue is particularly interesting in this respect. Read the advertising pages and know what these manufacturers are doing to meet the tremendous public demand.

December 27th Number on Sale Today—All News-dealers—10 Cents

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ALSO $10. FOR NEATEST SOLUTION. Somebody who sends for the particulars of this Puzzle Contest telling us WHAT TWO CITIES ARE REPRESENTED by the above Two Sketches, will receive a $100. MAHOGANY FINISH TALKING MACHINE or—

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