

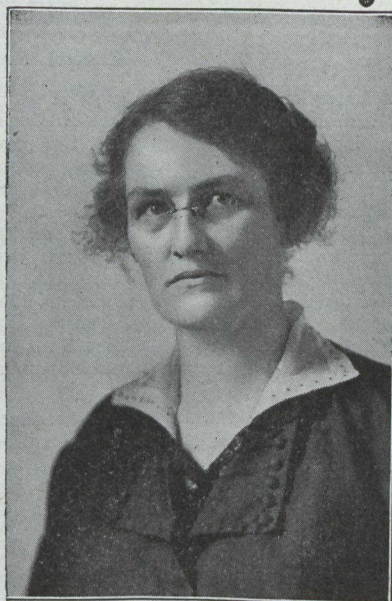
LEST WE FORGET.

In Montreal was recently performed a ceremony that brought to one's mind the tragedy of war in its intensest form. It was the unveiling of a flag to the memory of those who had fallen in this and previous years. The ceremony was not the tragedy, rather the unfurling of the British flag over the graves of veterans whom fortune or misfortune had brought from all parts of the world and who, through the thoughtful care of the Last Post Association, were enabled for their last long sleep to lay together in peace, was an honor worthy of such dead. The tragedy lay in the words that one saw in the invitation to the ceremony which read as follows: "The Primary object (of the Last Post Fund) is to prevent the ignoring and ingratitude of the abandonment to a pauper's grave at death, of any man of whom it can be proved that he had served his country honorably, either in the Army, Navy or Auxiliary Forces." As we looked over the Roll of Honor containing names of 110 men who had seen service in India, Egypt, South Africa, Palestine and France and realized that but for the generous spirit of a few big souled men, who established a fund to which they gave the appropriate title, "The Last Post Fund," most of these same men, who had given of their best to their country's service, would have found unknown and unhonored graves, it made one feel ashamed that we as a nation were too mean and ungrateful to give the means of decent burial to those who had done our fighting. It is a matter of fact that the Last Post Fund itself is the outcome of an official of a certain hospital—a veteran himself—appealing to the authorities for the body of an old soldier that was about to be sent to the dissecting theatre. With the help of a few friends the body was saved to be the first to have decent burial in the soldiers acre at Cote-de-Neiges Cemetery. This act of real charity took place ten years ago and the hospital official was Arthur H. D. Hair, who has since acted as secretary to the Fund with a loyalty and patience that cannot help but appeal to all friends of our soldiers and sailors. His assistant, Mr. A. Bromley-Smith, is the man who presented the flag-pole as a memorial to his brother who fell and is buried within seven miles of Jerusalem; and two others of his colleagues, Dr. W. H. Atherton (who has written more than one article in this Journal), and Mr. L. C. Vallee, have been giving excellent service from the first. The President of the Last Post (Commander J. T. Walsh) is also head of the C. P. R. shipping department and through him the C. P. R. generously donated the flag, a large Union Jack. These gentlemen have for ten years been giving much of their spare time to this useful work; getting all the data possible that would help in preserving a record not only of the men whose graves they have made themselves trustees for, but of a old military burial grounds of the Dominion, many of which have fallen into decay because of age and neglect. Some of the burial grounds have, through the efforts of the Association been renovated. In short the Last Post Fund is the best friend to the soldier or sailor who dies in indigent circumstances, though let it be said that not all the soldiers who lie buried in the association's grounds died in poor circumstances. There are some old soldiers who though in a position to secure private, graves preferred the veterans' cemetery and contributed to the funds for that purpose. Their wish was carried out.

This, briefly, is the meaning of the Last Post Fund. Its energies so far have been confined to Montreal. The executive in view of the fact that throughout Canada there are to-day many veterans in like circumstances to these of Montreal is desirous to see similar funds established in every city and town in the Dominion, by the Federal government. And why not? There is no doubt but what the internment. And why not? There is no doubt but what the tion, and the responsibility rests with the Dominion Government as the mouth piece of the nation. Outside Montreal there is not another place in Canada where a returned soldier or a sailor, can feel that he will be saved from a pauper's grave, unless he or his people are in a good financial position, or at least with sufficient to ensure that respectful burial which is their due.

Over half-a-million sons of Canada are taking part in this war. Many of them have already fallen and lie buried in France, and the British and French governments have appointed commissions to see to it that the graves are properly cared for—each with its little headstone—so that relatives or descendants going over the battlefields in after years may see with pride how their man had fallen—and

WOMEN MUNICIPAL CLERKS.



MISS MARTHA DICKENSON,
Assistant Clerk of Windsor, Ont.

Two of the delegates to the Ontario Municipal Association were Miss Mary Grant, municipal clerk and treasurer of London Township, and Miss Martha Dickenson, assistant and acting clerk of the City of Windsor. The presence of these two ladies at a conference of municipal executives and officials has raised much interest in the daily press, the impression evidently being that both are war appointments whereas one at least, Miss Martha Dickenson, has been in municipal harness for a quite a long time. The fact that both ladies took a keen interest and part in the discussions of the association was strong evidence to those present that they knew their business, as do those other ladies who are doing a man's job in different parts of the Dominion.



MAJOR GRAHAM,
Late Mayor of London, who was recently wounded in France.

why. Just a record of gratefulness on the part of two nations to those whose last fight had been in the great cause of liberty. Many Canadians have been wounded unto death, but who have lived long enough to reach home before they died. There has been no soldier's grave for them, except in Montreal. And many more will come home under similar conditions. What of them? And when the war is over, what of the returned men? Surely they well deserve a soldiers grave, when they come to their last sleep. They certainly will have won it. Is it not but right then that the splendid work of the Last Post Fund should be perpetuated throughout the Dominion, and the funds supplied by the nation, not by subscriptions but by a tax?