The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1919

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EDITORIAL

It will be very agreeable to the general public to learn that the postage on letters for Canada and the United States, not weighing over one ounce, is to be reduced to the pre-war rate of 2c. on and after the 1st of July next. Thus Dominion Day, 1919, will again be noted for a memorable event.

A Salvation Army campaign to take over saloon leases and fixtures in prohibition days, converting the deserted saloons into working men's clubs has been inaugurated in the United States. The plan contemplates retention of the lunch counter. But, instead of selling liquor as the saloons have done, the Salvation Army clubs will handle coffee, soft drinks and the doughnut made famous by the organization during the war. Some such scheme should be inaugurated in every town in Canada where prohibition comes into force. The working men deserve, and should have, their clubs.

The discontinuance of the conferring of Knighthood on Canadians residing in Canada was decided upon as advisable by the special committee of the House of Commons dealing with the matter. The committee also concurred in the recommendation favoring the abolition of hereditary titles which now exist in Canada. This country is aiming to establish a true democracy and will eventually accomplish it.

Quebec appears to be in the experimental stage so far as the liquor traffic is concerned, and its recent vote gave no hope that general sale of intoxicating liquor will be permitted in that province. The Montreal Star says: "The so-called 'liquor interests' will be foolish in the extreme if they misunderstand or misinterpret the verdict of the people on wine and beer. Quebec has not voted in favor of hard stuff and the more clearly the anti-prohibition element realizes this the better for it. Quebec has voted for an experiment in moderation."

May Day was a great day for Canadians who invested in Victory Bonds last November. On that day the Government of Canada paid them by cheque $18,000,000, the interest due for the first six months. This is only one of the numerous sources of interest from the Government. Canadians will draw over $70,000,000 in war bonds' interest this year. Will the 1,000,000 holders of Victory Bonds in the Dominion become systematic savers, thus helping themselves and the country? We suggest that every young man and woman set aside this money as a nucleus of a savings account if they have not already opened a bank account, or invest it in War Savings Stamps at the nearest post office.

The need for increased food production continues to be a pressing problem. From present indications farm help continues very scarce. Many women and girls will go out again this summer to help on farms and fruit gardens. Last year 2,400 women and girls were placed in situations of this kind in Ontario by the Provincial Government bureaux. Their work generally proved satisfactory both to the employers and to the employees. Wages, it is stated, will be somewhat higher this year and crop prospects are encouraging. In order to secure good conditions for the women sent out in groups, District Secretaries are appointed, who investigate labor conditions, secure a contract from the farmer, and supervise the work of the girls throughout their term of service. House mothers and chaperons are also arranged for.

In securing trade orders under Canadian credits abroad, the Canadian Trade Commission reports that certain industries have taken a predominant place, and that other classes equally important have done little to obtain an allocation. As the main idea in establishing credits was to enable Dominion industries as a whole to "carry on" over a difficult period and to enable a larger entry to be made into the export field, the attention of business men in all industries is called to the conditions. It is thought advisable to spread the credits over unused factory capacity without confining the benefits to a few lines, and thus prevent unemployment where possible. Present conditions offer to golden opportunities of entering the permanent export markets which may not again recur, and the Commission impresses on trades which may never have exported before the striking advantages of group endeavor.

For nearly two years certain politicians have indulged in wholesale slander of that section of the Liberal press which favored the formation of a Union Government with a policy positively stated as calculated to enable Canada more effectively to assist to win the war in the briefest possible time. Mr. Lemieux, member for Gaspe, reiterated these slanders in the House of Commons last week. He was promptly brought to book by Hon. N. W. Rowell and others. The Globe on Monday said: "Mr. Lemieux sheltered in the 'pill-box' of Parliamentary privilege, makes another attack on the Liberal Press, or on that portion of it which by its support of compulsory military service and the formation of a Union Government, at a time of national crisis, put principle and conviction above party solidarity. The Liberal Press can be proud of the part played in shaping the policy of the country during the war. The attack upon it by men of the type of Mr. Lemieux, whose canard may be believed by some credulous persons, is one of the penalties it is paying for its moral courage, but Canadians who believe that party is a means to an end, and not an end in itself, should pray that Canadian newspapers will continue to serve Canada as faithfully as they served it in the emergency of 1917.

Many of the newspapers of the United States are taking up the question of teachers' salaries in earnest. An enthusiastic journal in Dallas, Texas, says: "This richest country in the world, with its boasted public school system, its splendid school houses, its leadership in educational work, ought to pay its teachers at least as much as an ordinary coal digger can make, which is $6.00 per day."

Criticisms that returned soldiers, and oftimes returned soldier farmers, are not looking favorably upon farming for their future, receive an effective repulse from the director of information of the Soldier Settlement Board at Ottawa, who says: "An investigation of the facts reveals that up to the first of March the Federal Soldier Settlement Board had approved loans amounting to $1,008,105 to 1,218 returned men who had taken up homestead lands. Applicants must, of course, either be experienced farmers who are physically fit to undertake; or, if otherwise qualified but have not had sufficient agricultural experience, they must undergo a course of training in practical farm work. The Soldier Settlement scheme has made an excellent start and thousands more soldiers will, through it, be directed to farming as their future vocation.

Mr. Herbert Hoover, food controller of the United States, has recommended that Great Britain go dry. It seems that he strenuously resists the use by the brewers and distillers of England of grain imported from the United States and declares that if such use is to be made of it he will stop supplies. The London Morning Advertiser states that England could go dry, as the States had. The Advertiser is the organ of the liquor trade and waxes warm in indignation because of an outsider attempting to meddle with British affairs. But the Advertiser had as well keep cool; for there can be no justification of the use of grain for brewing and distilling when a large portion of the world goes hungry every day. And the Advertiser had as well face the fact that ere long England will put the ban on drink, as the United States has done.—Richmond Advocate.

The returned soldiers are evidently determined to have all citizens of Canada occupy the same positions in relation to responsibilities of citizenship as they have themselves been under. The Great War Veterans' Association has requested the Dominion Government to permit them to bring "an action against the crown in order to have it declared that any arrangement made by the Government with the Hutterites in 1918, whereby it purports to exempt them from military service, be declared unconstitutional, null and void. The veterans demand that all exemption privileges to members of the Mennonite and Hutterite bodies be annulled, and want those now out of Canada to be kept out of the country until they sign a declaration of their intention to assume full responsibility of Canadian citizenship, including the privileges of military service.

In the prosecution of Ben H. Spence on the charge of violation of the censors' order banning Arthur Mees' book "The Parasite" a conviction was secured last week, and a penalty of $500 and costs imposed. Many people who have followed this case will agree with the Globe in characterizing Magistrate Kingsford's conviction, "a gross miscarriage of justice." "The Parasite" was written in England; was a strong arraignment of the liquor traffic; it made no reflections on our soldiers, but pointed out the evils of the liquor temptations they were forced to face. It was circulated in England by tens of thousands and was banned by no censor there. It is quite apparent from what quarter the influence for action in Canada came. The prosecution was clearly a persecution with a sinister purpose. There are strong hopes that in the appeal which has been entered the Magistrate's decision will be reversed.

No one can misunderstand the farmers' movement. Among the fighting organizations the farmer is now one of the first. He has quit considering himself the underdog. He proposes to go on top. He says the manufacturer and the trafficite and the "reconstructionist" are out against him as though he were a menace. He is determined to fight. Compromise is not in his dictionary. He is an absolute last-ditcher. "Down with the Tariff!" . . . Once more the farmers' movement ignores party politics, not only on the prairies but in parliament, which is a very different matter. When a protest becomes a party and a party rapidly organizing as a direct class interest from coast to coast it is time for the old parties to take notice; time for the old leaders to conclude that what the labor party is in Britain the farmers' party is in Canada—the party of radical measures. Like it or not, there it is. And we shall have some lively politics yet out of this protest that became a party.—Canadian Courier.

The people of Acton have manifested a very sympathetic attitude toward our returned soldiers in their movement for the formation of a strong branch of the Great War Veterans for the district. The usefulness of this association cannot be measured in dollars and cents, nor by its internal administration alone. The principle upon which it is founded forms its greatest claim to the respect and support of the people of Canada, and places it in the very forefront as a national institution worthy of every consideration and assistance. Believing Canada to be under an unpayable obligation to fifty thousand of her sons who sleep in heroes' graves beyond the seas; to thousands of men who must go through life maimed by the cruelties and sufferings of war; and to many more who are returning to take up the thread of civilian life after many months of unpaid service and hardships, and, most sacred of all, to the widows, orphans and dependents of their brothers-in-arms who gave their all, the Great War Veterans' Association has taken upon itself the responsibility of enforcing strict accountability upon Canada. In return, the association accepts the principle of its own accountability to this country, and the perpetuation at home of the services rendered in the field. The membership is now nearly 100,000. Besides procuring employment for thousands of ex-service men, establishing clubs, and generally caring for and looking after the interests of those who have served and the dependents of the fallen, between two and three million dollars have been recovered on behalf of such in matters of pay, pensions, post-discharge pay, separation allowances, Patriotic Fund monies and various financial departments affected, through this splendid organization.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS

An eminent military authority has been quoted as saying that music has no competitor in army life as a tonic for fatigue and depression.

In the rural school course the omission of music, with its noticeable effect upon the morale of the pupil, testifies to the need of this art. The word "morale" is defined as "that mental state which renders a man capable of high courage and endurance." Necessity for this mental quality applies equally to the boys and girls enrolled in our schools, as well as to the soldiers.

If the Government found that organized group-singing in the army was essential as a means not only of recreation, but necessary also as a means of discipline, why not urge the systematic study of music for similar reasons in our rural schools?

The study of music is not urged as a possible future means of livelihood for the pupils, for few will be found to have unusual voices, or unusual musical gifts; however, there are few who can take part in the group-singing. Nothwithstanding the possession of only ordinary vocal power, every boy and girl should have the advantage of that drill in order to develop not only the singing voice, but the speaking voice as well. Another reason for using the simple time drills devised by the teacher, is the lack of rhythmic sense in many of the children— the inability to keep step—a defect which serves later to make them awkward and self-conscious.

There have been good reasons for the lack of interest in music, but that phase of our country is fast slipping by. Our boys sang in military camps as they never had sung in all their young lives, and when they have all come home we shall wake up to the fact that we are a singing nation.

But one book—the teacher's—the blackboard, and the right kind of a equipment; hence, the school room pitch-pipe will furnish the necessary should not be deprived of the enlivening influence of song, and as children can not give voluntary attention to a subject for any considerable length of time, instruction should not be confined to the so-called practical studies. Growing boys and girls have feelings and emotions, which find release through the joy of song. When this fact is realized the need of music in our schools will no longer be ignored.

OUR DEBT TO THE ONION

"Kill the onion and you leave a gap in the universe," said a famous doctor. "Kill anything else and there is a substitute. The potato is akin to the cereal; cabbage and turnip and cauliflower are of the same family; beans are elongated peas; the lemon is a pessimistic orange, watermelon the survivor of the cucumber, and so on. But the onion is sui generis, alone, unique, triumphant. It is a special creation to tempt the palate of a weary world. Man in his wisdom might have guessed everything else under the sun, but he never would have guessed an onion. Science may deduce a new star before it becomes visible, or radium before its discovery, but the onion would have gone uninvented for ever had not its own insinuating, yet not bashful, quality forced itself into tear-brimmed eyes and upon liquescent anticipatory lips. With what a mixture of gratitude and awe should we view the spectacle of nature turning her energy to the transmuting of mere clay into vegetable with an artistic temperament!"

MIGHT CALL IT ABOUT EVEN

Dr. Samuel Schwab claims that the oldest good story is the one about the boy who left the farm and got a job in the city. He wrote a letter to his brother who had elected to stick by the farm telling of the joys of city life, in which he said:

"Thursday we auto'd out to the country club and we golfed until dark. Then we trolleyed back to town and danced until dawn. Then we motored to the beach and Fridayed there." The brother on the farm wrote back:

"Yesterday we buggied to town and baseballed all afternoon. Then we went to Ned's and pokered till morning. To-day we muled out to the cornfield and gee-hawed till sundown. Then we auppered and then we piped for awhile. After that we staircased up to our room and bedsteaded until the clock fived."

THE REBULT OF ADVERTISING

The average Texas farmer buys canned and dried fruits—likewise canned and dried goods. He gets up at the alarm of a Connecticut clock, fastens his Chicago suspenders to his Detroit overalls, washes his face with Cincinnati soap in a Philadelphia wash pan, sits down to a Grand Rapids table and eats Indianna hominy friend in St. Joseph lard with bacon from Kansas City, and flour from Tennessee, baked on a St. Louis stove. Then he puts a St. Louis bridle on a Missouri mule and plows a farm covered with an Ohio mortgage. When bedtime comes he reads a chapter from a Bible printed in Chicago, says a prayer that was written in Jerusalem and crawls under a blanket made in New Jersey, only to be kept awake by a Texas dog, which is about the only home raised product on the place.—Texas Journal.

"NO USE"

A small boy announced his intention of never going to school and gave his reasons. "I can't read," he said, "and I can't write or do arithmetic, so I wouldn't be of any use in school." The young people who refuse to aid in the activities of the church because they would be of no real help are about as logical as this small boy. One of the reasons for helping is to learn to help.

THE STRAYING TURKEYS

Mrs. Brown had a fine flock of turkeys. One day half the flock strayed away, but ten of them returned. The next day half the flock strayed, and only four returned. The next day half of what was left went away, and but one returned. Mrs. Brown found she had only thirteen turkeys left. How many had she at first?

HIS EXPERIENCE IN CHURCH

John D Rockefeller, Jr., tells a story about a miner who explained one day to a bishop why he never went to church. "You see, bish, it's like this," th miner said: "the first time I went to church they threw water in my face, and the second time I went they tied me to a woman I've had to keep ever since." The bishop smiled grimly. "And the third time you go," he said, "they'll throw dirt on you."

CLIMBING TEST REVEALS A NEED

A recent test for applicants desiring positions in a fire department proved a strong argument in favor of more practical physical training for the young.

The test demanded that each applicant climb five rungs of a ladder in hand-over-hand manner. Only seventy-four out of 150 who took the test succeeded in climbing the full number of rungs, and only ten went beyond the specified number.

BEING AN EDITOR

Most any man can be an editor. All the editor has to do is to sit at a desk six days a week, four weeks a month, and twelve months in a year and edit such stuff as this:

"Mrs. Jones of Cactus Creek, let a can-opener slip last week and cut herself in the pantry. Joe Doe climbed on the roof of his house last week looking for a leak and fell, landing on his back porch. While Harold Green was escorting Miss Violet Wise from the church social last Saturday night a savage dog attacked them and bit Mr. Green on the public square. Mr. Brang, while harnessing a broncho last Saturday, was kicked just south of his corn crib."

WHAT THEY WERE WORRIED WITH

Preaching in one of the State capitals, an Australian bishop noticed in his congregation a strange face. The following Sunday the same individual appeared, and later in the week the bishop met him in the street. The bishop stopped him, congratulated him upon his attendance at the cathedral, and added: "You don't live here, do you?"

"No," said the stranger; "I live way back," mentioning the name of the place.

"Have you any Episcopalians in that place?" inquired the bishop.

"No, sir," was the reply. "What we are mostly worried with is rabbits."

STEADINESS OF PURPOSE

Attending steadily to one piece of work till it is done is a high road to peace of mind, if there were no other benefits. To have half a dozen unfinished pieces of work hanging raggedly about is chaotic and distracting. The mind is pulled six different ways, and has no special force in any one of them. There is a species of mental juggling with work, keeping several balls in the air, that a good many people try to do for the astonishment of beholders; but the trick is very wearing, and, after all, doesn't amount to much.—Selected.

HE SHOULDN'T MIND

Two Irishmen met at a country fair and held the following conversation:

"Ah, Pat, sure, is it you?"

"Yis; an' it's been a long time since we met. What's the news?"

"It's married I am, and I have a little boy who looks just like me."

The other surveyed him critically for a moment and then replied consolingly, "Well, I shouldn't mind so long as he's healthy."

BLACK AND GREEN

An old colored man was burning dead grass when a "wise guy" stopped and said:

"You're foolish to do that, Uncle Eb; it will make the meadow as black as you are."

"Don't worry 'bout dat, sah," responded Uncle Eb. "Dat grass will grow out an' be as green as you is."

AN INSTRUMENT OF PRECISION

Dibbs—"Do you believe that there is really something which can invariably tell when a man is lying?"

Higgs—"I know it."

Dibbs—"Ah! Perhaps you have seen one of the instruments?"

Higgs—"Seen one? I married one."

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The Merchants Bank will cash all War Loan coupons or interest cheques when due, on presentation, without making any charge whatever for the service.

If you have not a Savings Account, why not use your interest money to open one with This Bank?

61

SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES
IN YOUR OWN BANK

A series of thirty-four safety deposit boxes in three sizes has been installed in the vault of the Merchants Bank of Canada, Acton. These boxes are burglar proof, have double locks and secure to each lessee, absolutely secure protection from fire or meddlers. You have your own key. The rental is very small and the boxes are commodious. See the manager and secure one for your documents and valuables.

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Your Country needs this money in these days of readjustment and reconstruction.

The purchase of War Savings Stamps is an easy way for you to save, as well as a patriotic duty.

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War Savings Stamps can be bought wherever this sign is displayed.

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104

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