

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7th, 1917.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO WIN THE WAR?

To listen to the complaints of some peevish people one might imagine that Canadians were suffering almost beyond endurance through the present war. To see only the conditions round about, however, would give one the impression that Canada did not even know a war was in progress. The truth is that Canada is prospering and waxing fat, and, after the manner of the ancients, Canada waxes fat — and kicks. It is true that prices for most commodities have greatly increased, but is it not also true that practically all are living on a higher standard of luxury and comfort than ever before? Is it not true that real suffering and privation are absent? Is it not true that Canada has failed as yet to be forced to economize even in its luxuries, not to mention necessities? Is it not a fact that too many complain now simply because they "cannot have their cake and eat it, too?"

Getting right down to hard facts, why should the average Canadian today think of whining about the cost of this great war? Why should he complain and "wish the terrible war was over?" What sacrifice is he making in any way comparable to the sacrifices of other parts of the Empire and the Allied Nations, who are battling under stress and strain to assure freedom for the world from the horrors that have assailed civilization? In Britain and France they know a little of what real sacrifice may mean, and yet they do not complain. In England they are going to plough by night that the food problem may be helped to a little better solution. In Belgium they have tasted to the bitter dregs the cup of sorrow and of glory of sacrifice, yet they have made less complaint than many of our own sleek, well-fed mortals who wish the war was over because the conflict is getting on their touchy nerves.

In an address recently delivered, Prof. Stephen Leacock touches upon this point in able fashion. The address has been published for free distribution by the National Service Board of Canada and it would be an excellent thing if EVERY citizen of Canada would "read, mark, learn and inwardly digest" the little booklet. After reviewing the respective positions to-day of Germany and the Allies, both in a moral and military sense, Prof. Leacock says:—

"But we only deceive ourselves if we hide the fact that the fate of the war—and with it all that is best in the world—hangs in the balance.

"What are we to do?"

"Our soldiers in the field have done, and are doing, all that heroism can inspire and all that endurance can fulfil. Are we doing our share at home? We go about our tranquil lives scarcely disturbed. Here and there, the swift dart of death, that strikes "somewhere in France," reaches, with its double point, somewhere in Canada, a mother's heart. We pause a moment in our sympathy, and pass on. To and fro we go about our business. We pay our easy taxes, and subscribe to our so-called patriotic loan, so issued that the hungriest money-lender in New York is glad to clamor for a share of it. We eat, drink and are merry, or, at least, not sad, professing a new philosophy of life as our sympathies grow dull to the pain and suffering that we do not share.

"Are we, the people of Canada who are at home, doing our proper part to help to win the war?"

"If a war were conducted with the

full strength of a nation, it would mean that every part of the fighting power, the labor, and the resources of the country were being used towards a single end. Each man would either be fighting, or engaged in providing materials of war, food, clothes and transport for those that were fighting, with such extra food and such few clothes as were needed for themselves while engaged in the task."

Prof. Leacock points out that instead of the real war economy he has outlined, men and women in Canada are not only spending their strength and energy in the production of unnecessary things, but they are also giving their days and nights to luxuries that might be avoided until the fate of humanity is decided. "They still want their industry with its inflated gains, and War Prosperity with the flush on its hectic face, and War Pleasure with its strident laugh dancing away the midnight hours," he says.

There are two ways by which we can change from an economy of peace and industrial selfishness to an economy of effort and national sacrifice, according to Prof. Leacock. The one method—that adopted by the Boers, and by the Confederates in the Civil War in the United States—Prof. Leacock considers heroic but impossible. It would mean the ending of private industry, the death of all luxury, the taking over of everything by the State. He believes the need is too pressing for that plan to be adopted now, as years of preparation would be needed to make such a gigantic task a success. The other plan lies easy to our hands, says Prof. Leacock. "What we do must be done from below, using, as best we can, the only driving force that we know—the will of the individual," he says. "The key to the situation, as far as we can unlock it," he continues, "lies in individual thrift and individual sacrifice."

In those words, "individual thrift and individual sacrifice," Prof. Leacock has touched the secret of the winning of the war. It is not a war of Governments. It is a war of the people against a system of savagery. Only the people can win it. Only the individual, in the last analysis, can win it. It can be only won with speed and surety by EVERY man doing his individual duty, whatever that duty may be. Each man has only to answer for his own conscience, and the trouble to date has been that we have all been paying too much attention to what others should do or should not do.

If the privileges, the liberties and the blessings that we as a people have enjoyed these many years are worth anything, they are worthy a little appreciation and a little cheerful sacrifice. If we see no such privileges, or liberties or blessings in this land—we should move out—for either the land is unworthy of a self-governing people, or the people are unworthy of the land. Remaining, each man should do his duty freely, cheerfully and fully. "If not," says Prof. Leacock, "let us call our soldiers home from the western front. They are fighting under a misunderstanding. The homes that they are saving are not worth the sacrifice."

Let us play the game—with the sublime courage of the Belgian if we may; with the patient bravery of the French, if we must; with the unselfish nobility of our British brethren if we can; or with Canadian common sense and cheerfulness, for our own sakes and for humanity.

The D.Y.B. Club Weekly Report

The members of the D. Y. B. Club enjoyed a very jolly sleigh drive out to the Dome Lake Mine last evening, where the regular weekly meeting of the Club was held at the home of Mrs. H. V. Darling. After the usual work of the Club had been taken up, Mrs. Darling sang for the girls, after which that lady, assisted by her mother, served a very dainty lunch.

Miss Louise Demers, who has held the position of President since the organization of the Club, has resigned that office, owing to her leaving for Haileybury, where she intends training for a nurse. Miss Demers has been a very faithful officer, and with her congenial disposition she has won a warm spot in the hearts of all the girls, and it was with deep regret that we learned of her leaving our midst. At the same time the girls, one and all, join in wishing Miss Demers every success in her undertaking.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Goldfields Hotel, next Monday evening.

Work taken in: 6 pairs socks, 1 shirt.

Work given out: Wool for 8 pairs socks.

The United States yearly spends \$100,000,000 in building public schools.

"D' BEEG PO-LEECE" HAD A BUSY TIME

Chief Craft Blushed, but it was the Little Provincial Officer Ackroyd That the Lady Meant.

It is funny how these little fellows all imagine they are big! "Den, d' beeg po-leece he came," said a lady at Thursday's police court. And Provincial Officer Allen blew his nose because he thought everyone was looking at him; Inspector Rowell coughed to hide his embarrassment; Constable Sally looked behind the stove; Chief Craft actually blushed, and even Inspector Blackwell looked uncomfortable. And all the time it was Provincial Officer Ackroyd that was meant. He had gone to the lady's house in company with Chief Craft to see why she was getting liquor under two names. The lady was not in, and the liquor did not seem to be in, either, for neither the "beeg" police, nor the "little" police, nor any other kind of a police could find it, though it was only released three or four hours before. About three days before, the lady had a case of liquor come addressed to Mrs. Labrause, and this day she had signed for one addressed to Mrs. Raymond. The police had searched the house on suspicion on more than one occasion. The lady claimed that she was entitled to both names, one apparently being her husband's and the other her own, but which is which or neither was not plain. It is an offence against the Temperance Act to have liquor shipped to an assumed name, and the Magistrate imposed a fine of \$50, with a warning to have shipments hereafter come in her own real name. He also left the impression that he did not quite believe all of the story as told. The fine was paid later.

The "Beeg Police" had also been busy at Schumacher where he caught 10 or 12 playing "Blacker Jack." J. Bagsley, the owner of the place, was fined \$100 and costs, and as he came in an intoxicated condition to the court he was given a three months' jail sentence in addition, with the option of telling where he got his liquor. Some hours later he told.

Messrs. Canty and Stingle were also up for being drunk. They were given the chance of going down for three months, or telling who gave them the liquor. At first they were going down. Then they decided to

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tell. It was a man they did not know. Pete McGarry was fined for being drunk in a public place. Officers Allen and Roy picked him up. He got his liquor from Montreal. His fine was paid and he was free. Fred Malone did not appear, his bail was estreated, and a warrant issued for his arrest.

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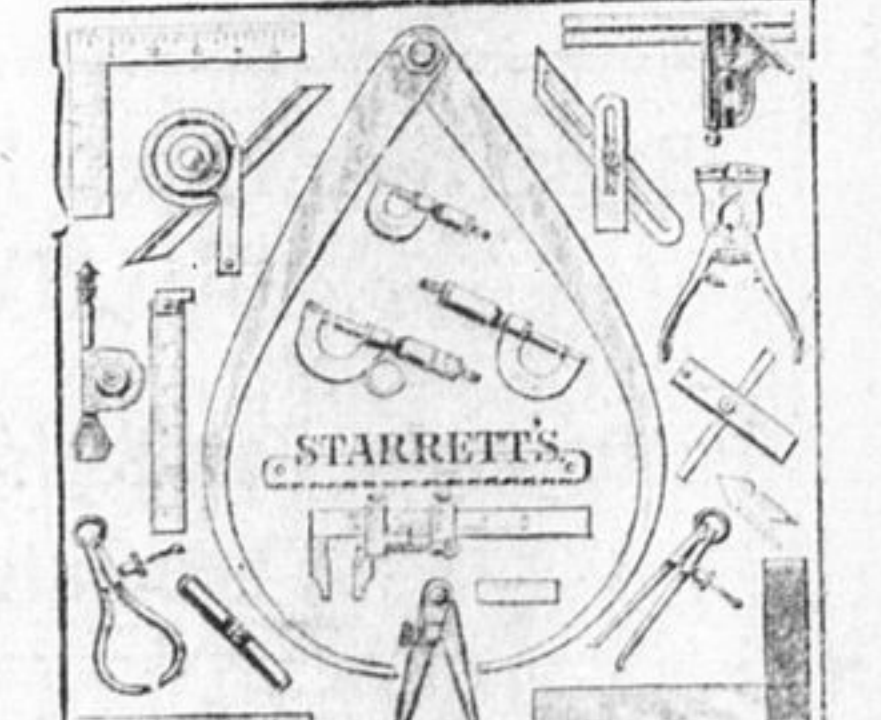
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