

THE PORCUPINE ADVANCE

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THE SOLDIERS STILL SERVE!

In the earlier years of the war there were multitudes of fine words for the brave men who were enlisting to fight the world's battle against brutality and madness overseas. "We will never desert these brave men!" "We will never forget our noble soldiers!" "We will stand behind our soldiers boys to the last man and the last dollar!" These were some of the glib phrases used so frequently by public men and in the press. To listen to these phrases one would imagine that nothing would be grudged to the soldiers when they returned from overseas. Yet already the insincerity of many in their talk along this line is made more than manifest. The attitude of too many in regard to the part taken by the soldiers in the recent riots in Toronto is no credit either to the general loyalty to the brave men who have risked their lives for us, or to our own common sense. Instead of being "ready to suffer anything for the brave soldiers," as we so often boasted, too many have shown not even decent patience under the first slight inconvenience. Instead of the unbounded gratitude that we pretended would be given, the soldiers have been refused even a patient consideration of any case they may have in the matter. They were condemned by too many, without a hearing, without the facts, without consideration of causes, without thought of excuse. So much for our vaunted gratitude! As for our common sense, not much may be said. Ever since the war began there has been an organized pro-German campaign to ridicule and besmirch the Canadian soldiers, and in the case of the Toronto riots we have been foolish enough to give this evil enemy plan considerable support.

No loyal citizen will uphold lawlessness, rowdiness or rioting even by returned heroes, but every honest man with a spark of grateful feeling owes it to himself and to the soldiers to see that they are not condemned unheard and unconsidered for the Toronto riots. Every loyal man should see to it that the soldiers receive some small measure of the kindly consideration and forbearance that would be tendered to a group of malicious aliens under similar circumstances. All the guff between here and Hamland will not alter the fact that we DO owe the soldier special consideration and toleration.

The truth is that the trouble in Toronto was not unreasonable and unjustifiable lawlessness. There is, indeed, excuse for the wrath of the returned soldiers. They had special grievances of their own that were not given attention. In addition, they came back shattered and shell-shocked to find in most cases that their own kin were pinched and anxious and burdened, while the aliens were fat and favored and impudent. These things were irritatingly impressed upon them on the street, in the stores, on the street cars. They appealed to the authorities for proper control of the foreigners. They begged Ottawa to deal rightly with the alien problem. They urged that the country should not be given over to the foreigners. Their pleas went apparently unheeded. Even uncracked nerves would lose patience with the seeming idiotic and evil preference given in this time of war to aliens who escape all service and responsibility, who contribute to no patriotic funds, but who just grow rich while patriotic Britishers pinch themselves poor. It is too much to expect that those who have seen and suffered in Flanders should swallow easily the hamecombe that it is wise or necessary to employ alien enemies in municipal, Provincial and Dominion Government positions with big pay. It was only to be expected that the patience of heroes would come to an end before the monumental inactivity of the Governments. The Government's treatment of the alien question is really the root of the trouble in Toronto and the men who did such a great deal to Canada by their sufferings may have given another service to this land by bringing so resolutely and forcibly before the nation the real grievances under which our soldiers suffer today.

ANOTHER RE-STATEMENT OF THE GOLD SITUATION.

Col. Chester T. Kennan, of Murray, Idaho, has a thoughtful article in a recent issue of The Northwest Mining Truth. He reviews the gold situation and the remedies proposed to maintain and increase production. Col. Kennan makes it clear beyond question that the increased production of gold is absolutely necessary for the stability of the world's finances. Wages and other costs and the inefficiency of available labor, he points out, prevent the continuance of gold production under present conditions. He does not, however, place much hope in the remedies generally suggested. Interference with taxation, building of roads to mines, bonuses, etc., he classifies as either inadequate or impractical. The remedy he advocates is the altering of the parity of gold. Gold is now at par at \$20 per ounce and he would fix the parity at \$30 per ounce. He admits the Government's action in this respect would have to be done suddenly and secretly to prevent a panic and to offset the probable hoarding of gold until the new parity was established. There will be a general disposition to believe that Col. Kennan's remedy is less practical than a bonus plan. The advantage of a bonus would be that its help would be immediate, while it could be discontinued as soon as it was no longer necessary. Col. Kennan's idea would give no better results than a bonus, while any alteration of the parity of gold would undoubtedly result in a general re-adjustment of prices, and the gold mining industry might be left in the end in worse situation than at present. As The Advance has repeatedly suggested the Governments could aid the gold industry in three important ways. First, by adjustment of taxation. Second, by controlling the alien labor that is the present chief dependence of the mines. And third, by a substantial bonus to the producing mines that would guarantee them a fair return for their efforts at this time.

LAW AGAINST IDLENESS NOT BEING ENFORCED.

The Sudbury Star calls attention to the police laxity in certain North County towns in regard to the enforcement of the law against idleness. The Star suggests that Sudbury started out to enforce this law very strictly, but that this plan was found impossible on account of the attitude of other towns. The claim is made that the Sudbury merchants lost money and trade when the idlers found that other towns were not enforcing the law, as the idlers moved where they were not likely to be disturbed. It is very questionable indeed if the idlers are much real good to the merchants of any town. It is certain that the town indirectly has to support the man who has no useful occupation and the merchants have to pay their full share in many ways. First, Sudbury was inclined to follow the plan of other North Land towns and not prosecute the idlers. Now, however, a better and more patriotic idea is advocated. Now, Sudbury is soliciting the co-operation of neighboring towns in the enforcement of the law against idlers, North Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Port Arthur and Fort William being particularly mentioned. The Timmins police have made a special effort to enforce the law against idleness. The first convictions under this Order-in-Council were made here, and attention has been continued along this line. In Timmins the chief offenders have been Russians and other aliens and alien enemies, the British people taking the warning of the first convictions to heart and finding a lawful occupation.

THIS LOOKS LIKE A SUFFICIENT EXCUSE.

While one of the staff of the Express Co. was coming down the track one night last week he was suddenly and unexpectedly attacked by a woman with a club. He had his hat smashed in and also received a tap on the side of the head. He did not wait for any more, but made tracks down the track. Later, it was explained that his assailant was a woman who has lately shown signs of being mentally deranged. Her explanation is that she thought it was her husband, but it wasn't. That explanation seems to be sufficient.

An unusually pleasing catch of pike and pickerel was made down the river Sunday by Messrs. McCracken and Leber, the latter landing a magnificent pickerel that tipped the scales next day at over 70 pounds. The fish was held over 21 hours and has not lost admiration and every one who has had a look at the specimen will well warrant the ten words "this is a really fine specimen." It was the largest pike ever taken in the area.

NEW L.O.L. HALL AT PORQUIS JUNCTION

Resurrection of Some of the Units of the L.O.L. From the 1916 Fire.

Tuesday evening of last week saw the opening up of the new hall of L.O.L. No. 2475, Porquis Junction, the first real home the lodge has had since the terrible fire of 1916. It will be remembered that at the meeting of the Grand Lodge of Ontario West, County Master S. G. McCoubrey and Organizer W. G. Armstrong secured a grant of \$1000 each for the five Orange halls that were burned down in the fire-swept area. Porquis Jct. has been the last to get started up, so many of the members being overseas and the few remaining having their work cut out to get themselves reinstated in their homes again. However, now they have a splendid home for their L.O.L. work, and Tuesday evening saw the work taken up again with an enthusiasm that bids fair to put Porquis Junction again among the leaders in Temiskaming County. There were altogether 12 members of Canada L.O.L. No. 2623, which represented four each in the teams, Orange, Blue and the Royal Arch degree. The teams simply revelled in the work and put on four new initiations in the Orange degree, and four from the Orange degree into the Blue that had been waiting two years, and six from the Blue into the Royal Arch degree. The ladies of the L.O.B.A. of Porquis Junction had a surprise visit to the new hall at 11.30 p.m., just in the middle of the Blue degree, and on being admitted were found to be in possession of the wherewithal for the serving of a splendid supper. They stayed about one half hour and received on behalf of Canada No. 2623 the very hearty appreciation of the members for their forethought.

The various degrees were put on as follows:—W. M. Black, of Porquis, No. 2475 was in the chair during the Orange Degree; W.B. S. G. McCoubrey, District Master of D. 111, occupied the chair during the Blue degree, and also during the Royal Arch Degree, while County Master W. B. D. McDougall took the secret work in all degrees and directed the floor work of the Royal Arch. Wor. Bro. S. G. McCoubrey, District Master, gave the obligation in the entire 14 degrees.

The work was exemplified in a beautiful manner by the various degree teams and the brethren at Porquis Junction extend to the members their very hearty appreciation of their help and sympathy in their time of resurrection. Our readers are warned that they will hear more of Porquis Junction L.O.L. No. 2475 in the future, much more so than in the past. W.B. Rev. R. E. Morton of No. 2623 acted as Chaplain during the Orange and Blue degrees and received most of the candidates in the Royal Arch degree. The Lodge closed in due form in the Royal Arch Degree at 4.40 a.m. Wednesday morning, 7th, instant, the boys from Iroquois Falls going home on their Gasoline Speeder.

SPECIAL MEETING OF PORCUPINE NAVY LEAGUE.

A meeting of the Admiral Beresford branch of the Navy League, Porcupine, is called for the Council Chamber, Timmins, to-morrow (Thursday) afternoon at 4.30. There are a number of questions of special importance to come before this meeting, and all members in the Camp are urgently requested to attend. The Porcupine branch of the Navy League has shown a rapid growth in membership and all should continue to take an active interest in this worthy patriotic association. Attend the meeting in the Council Chamber, to-morrow afternoon.

BELGIAN VETERAN DIES IN BATH AT SUDBURY.

Prof. Gaston Auguste Ledoux, of the Ontario Bureau of Mines staff, died at Sudbury last week apparently from heart failure. He was found in the bath tub at his hotel room. When the body was found, the head was submerged, and it is thought that the Professor was stricken with heart failure during his cold plunge. Prof. Ledoux was a Belgian and at the outbreak of war he was professor of mineralogy and geology in the University of Brussels. In 1914 he joined the Belgian artillery and was badly wounded. After being discharged from the Belgian Army he came to Canada three years ago. For the past two summers he had been engaged by the Ontario Bureau of Mines to investigate sand and gravel deposits in the Province. Early in July he was in the Porcupine, stopping several days at Timmins. His height and distinguished bearing attracted attention here. He was about 45 years of age. The body is being sent to Toronto, where Madame Ledoux resides.

SPECIAL CONSTABLE GIVEN TERM IN JAIL.

Some time ago the wife of John Johnson at North Bay ran away with a Greek named Kostos. Several hundred dollars of Johnson's also went away with the couple. The runaways were arrested at Windsor and Johnson, who is also of alien lineage, secured authority as special constable so that he could go and bring them back. When the three had got back as far as Toronto Johnson accepted \$700 from Kostos and let him go. Part of this \$700 was the amount taken away by the runaway couple. Kostos, however, told some of his friends about the deal and Johnson was arrested on a charge of obtaining money under false pretences. At Toronto last week he was found guilty and sentenced to one month in jail.

Gunner John Carnovale, of the 67th Battery of Artillery at Petawawa, has been renewing acquaintances here on a few days' leave. Gunner Woodward, of the same Battery, has also been visiting friends in town on a similar furlough.

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