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The Canadian Legion in the Porcupine

By the Secretary-Treasurer

This week we have one new member, Comrade R. G. Foster, secured by President Neame. Comrade Foster has seen service in South Africa and the Great War.

Here is a sad story of a man who fought in the high seas for King and Country. He enlisted in Oct. 1914, in R. N. D. and saw service on H.M.S. Silverol, mine sweeper and oil feeder. Was wounded and in hospital in England. Saw many Canadians cross the Atlantic as he was then sent to H.M.S. Culombella and was in convoys of troops from Halifax to England. Was discharged, 1919, October, with an 80 p.c. pension, as unfit for further service. He had this pension for 3 years and it was stopped altogether without warning. He has been 8 years in Can-

ada. Worked at the following mines—Big Dome, 1922, Paymaster, 1923, New York Porcupine, 1924; West Dome Lake, 1925; March Gold, 1926; Old Success Mine, 1927. He is a shaftman, also an experienced miner. Since 1927 he has done odd jobs around. Was examined at a local mine and turned down. Here is a man who served the whole of the war, and now has 3rd officers' certificate for "Marine," but must keep away from the sea, owing to doctor's advice; a good miner, steady worker; his pension stopped, and turned down unfit for mine work. One of the many who gave his all and now is cast to one side as scrap. We are doing what we can to get this comrade his pension back again, and I think he could be found a job at our various industries. A man with a record of work like this should not be allowed to be idle. Any employer of labour who could place this comrade would be doing something to repay what this comrade did for him in the days of war. The employers can rely on the Legion to do their share in getting this comrade justice as regards his pension but this comrade also wants work not charity. This man has no "Red" ideas. He is a Britisher who still loves the old Union Jack, in spite of adverse conditions.

We had a letter from our Toronto office asking that we transfer Comrade Burrell Bell to Christie street branch, Toronto. We are sorry to lose a member of this branch any time but we all wish Comrade Bell the best down in Toronto.

I might add that I have some information regarding the Pensions Act now. It only arrived Saturday. This is the War Veterans' Allowance Act. Allowances are payable to Veterans of the Great War 1914-21, who saw actual service in the war. No man is eligible who saw service in Canada or England, unless they are pensioned or have received a final payment for a disability of 5 p.c. or more in lieu thereof. Applicants must have attained the age of 60 years or be permanently unemployable by reason of physical or mental disability. The act contains reservations as to income and restrict the amount payable for single men \$20.00 per month and a married man \$40.00 per month and applicants must have resided 1 year in Canada prior to application. The date effective is Sept. 1st and no monies are payable until October 1st, 1930.

This week I would like to say a little about why every ex-soldier should join the Legion. In these days we notice a great movement in Canada, in England in fact all over the world, by the Reds. Their code is strictly one we do not want, as we spent years fighting so that the British Empire might be free and not have a foreign yoke around its neck. The seed has already been sown, which is the seed of unrest and strife and misery. You

have only to pick up the papers and read of the suffering of thousands of people in the country were the red flag flies. We have suffering here, mostly brought about by these people doing the Britisher out of employment, and not only employment. They have their own stores, halls, and they send out of Canada thousands of dollars every month to support the red doctrine. There are some of these people who have become good citizens of the country. Some of them took the oath of allegiance to His Majesty, the King, and fought for Canada and the Empire. This class we respect as good citizens, but one has only to take hold of any newspaper and read the court columns and see who are the law breakers. It is the children of such as these kind of men who are taught to hate the British flag, and everything British. Hate a civilized government. Hate the employer, police, in fact hate everything that is decent and provides a living for people. They have the same, if not greater privileges than we Britishers have as they mostly get the benefit of the doubt in times when they are in trouble. They have had and in many cases, still have, the preference where work is concerned, over the Britisher. Where a little extra bonus may be made these same men are still to the fore and many of them single men. If one of them is a newcomer he is taken in hand, by one of his countrymen, and taught what to do or say. If in trouble his countrymen rush to his aid, and if work is needed they pave the way so that he has a good chance to get employment. These men do not make a good type of citizen; their mode of living their brawls in public, are not a good thing for the children of men who are good citizens, and soldiers of the Empire, to be brought up amongst. To be taught to sneer and slur at the Union Jack, in a country where the Union Jack flies is more than we should stand for. To keep in employment and on the good side of the boss, they don't mind in many cases using a little "grease," which we all know is detrimental to the Britisher and citizen of Canada. The Dominion of Canada sent a good-sized army over to France; also many men to Africa to stand behind the good old flag. In those days they were united, all side by side, fighting for King and Country. Now when we have the right to live, in the country we fought for, to look after the united front we had in these olden days overseas is broken. Many an officer and N. C. O. owes his honours to the rank and file, the officer especially. We have many ex-officers and N.G.O.'s and men in the Canadian Legion of the British Empire Service League united still for the good of our comrades and their dependants.

—men yes, men, who give hours and hours of their time, often without recompense whatsoever to foster that spirit of comradeship made upon battlefields in the days of war—men who are not afraid to stand up for their less fortunate comrades, and see that at least they get a show, get a right to live in the country they fought for. We have also many, many ex-officers, N. C.O.'s—and men who say, "To hell with the Legion; I had enough over there in the war, and I don't want to be bothered with anything connected with the army." We have had several of these kind of men, that have only been too pleased to accept help from the Legion when in distress. They called upon the Legion, and found the Legion was willing to assist. The Legion had often called upon them and received the answer quoted above. That shows poor spirit, poor comradeship, poor citizenship and lack of forethought. I know of several cases right in our midst, some who threw up the Legion, some who could have joined us, but would not, but the Legion was the first place they came to for assistance. They forgot the dues were only a little more than a cent a day. They forgot their comradeship made in the service all over of the Empire, in fact, they said, "To hell with the Legion. We don't want it." What must they have felt like to eat humble pie and come to the same Legion for help. Some of whom we helped joined up when they got work, and their only thought is to help the Legion in any way they can. "Don't forget to call upon me any time, Bill. I'll be only too pleased to help." The Legion was a godsend to me," are words that count, words that come from the heart and foster that spirit of comradeship that makes the Canadian Legion rank high in the estimation of our countrymen. The same spirit of comradeship, in the men who are officials of the Legion keeps the

Legion to the fore. These men are men of sterling qualities, men who have no fear, men who are not afraid to stick up for what they fought for, men who can and will smooth the rough spots on the rough old "trail of life." These men showed their hand in Ottawa. They have showed their hand in the Porcupine and will again show their hand if needed when the livelihood of the ex-soldier is at the stake, and his dependants suffering. Could those who loll around in luxury, in fine cars, have fine homes, lots of money, no cares, no troubles, stop and think, and go and see some of the cases of distress amongst ex-soldiers, perhaps they would think what they could do to help in the matter. They could give their help as freely as we gave our years of service overseas, our lives, our health, our all, for their sake, and many of this kind of people are our late comrades of the great war. They have forgotten the boys who were behind them in the thin red line. We have them right in our midst, so we know what we are talking about. It is the likes of these ex-soldiers (we were all soldiers) that we want with us in the Legion, along with the rest of those who are not so well blessed with the world's goods. These men with their influence could do much to help us to hold our own and uphold the Union Jack. Some I know feel badly about being suspended, but we forget about that, we are always ready to take them back into the Legion, if they pay up their arrears. Some have a selfish view of coming back. They owed around \$10.00, some more, when they were suspended and want the Legion to take them back and forget all about what they owe. Some have the nerve to ask to come back by paying \$2.00. They forget the years the officials of the Legion have carried on the work, thinking and counting their dues would be paid. Look at the good work done by the Legion the last three years. It cost money to do this work. Many can well afford the arrears but hate to pay it up, hate the thought that they dropped out. We do not hate these comrades; we welcome them all back again. Several have come back already and I think the coming back was not hard and we have no wish to make the coming back hard. Several have marched with the Legion during the last six months with the Legion badge in their lapel. We were proud to have them with us and we would be prouder still to have them back in the branch. It only requires a start, a little thought to be with the boys again as a member of the Legion.

To those who are not members, and have never been members I would like to say a few words. I know of several who have had at least five application forms, have made at least five different promises to join up, but somehow or other have not done so. They would like to be with us. Why not come now? Some I know are afraid of their employers, which is absurd, as the employer has more respect for a man who comes out in the open than a man who keeps behind out of sight. The employer at the bottom of his heart admires the ex-soldier as he knows that the ex-soldier will not fail him when his help is required. Too many employers to-day do not take any interest in their staff of employees. Some take great interest. The employer often does not know the real state of affairs and in many cases does not attempt to find out. The employer who does watch his employees and take interest in those employed has many ex-soldiers in his ranks, just as good, if not better than those who were not ex-soldiers. He is not going to put obstacles in the way as he knows he has in the ex-soldier a good honest workman, a man with no "Red" ideas, a man who will not let him down. So all those who have that little fear forget all about it and join up now. Then there are others who have no time to be interested in the Legion. That is a poor excuse, as we have many, many comrades who never get to a meeting, but keep their interest in the Legion in the shape of dues. "Dear Bill—Sorry I cannot get to a meeting, but enclosed please find my dues," are letters which I often receive from comrades who cannot get to a meeting. All ex-soldiers have the time to take enough interest to pay their dues, even if they cannot get to a meeting. The forms we now have enable them to be a member of the branch without coming to a meeting. They only sign a form that they renew their oath of allegiance to H. M. the King, and promise to abide by the rules of the Canadian Legion. So excuse there is none. The branch is in

first-class condition, over 230 paid-up members and the men behind the branch are in it for the good of the branch, not themselves. Our cards are upon the table at all times; we have nothing to hide.

Many will remember about the advice given a comrade to hang on to a stop watch till the owner joined up, and I think now we will get the owner of the watch as a member of the branch.

Some of our ex-members asked some time ago for a statement of their account, so that they could pay up. The statement was sent as requested, and as a good many 15 days have elapsed since the letter was posted and as the letter has not been returned, I would again remind these comrades that we are still waiting and hoping for the return of the statement, and the arrears which they were in a hurry to get. Some have cost the branch 20 cents in stamps so far for statements, suspensions and statements which all help to reduce our bank balance, and is a wastage of good money if they have no intention to pay up their arrears. I notice some of these ex-comrades to the fore, when there is something for nothing and we wish we had their nerve.

Our next general meeting will be about the 29th of September, and we hope to fill the hall. The president will have to get some arm exercise before this date as we have a record number already to receive the hand of comradeship, in the Canadian Legion. We have members from Toronto, Port Colbourne, Winnipeg, The Abana Mine, Sandy Falls, Connaught, Hoyle, Englehart and Golden City. These comrades are proud to be members of Timmins branch Canadian Legion. They

cannot attend our meetings but they are with us in the proper way, so let's have all ex-soldiers in this district in the branch by Sept. 29th. Make this a record meeting, a record induction night, a record in the history of the Canadian Legion in the Porcupine. Show your utter disgust of the "Reds" by joining our ranks. The more we get the stronger we are. Let those who preach about the wonderful Soviet go and live in that country and take their followers with them, as we have a better sermon to preach which is "One King, One Flag and One Country, namely, His Majesty King George, the

Fifth; The Good Old Union Jack and the British Empire, the Empire on which the sun never sets, a boast that only Britishers can make, a boast that the Canadian Legion will ever try to hold, in the future as they have held to do in the past.

The Secretary-Treasurer

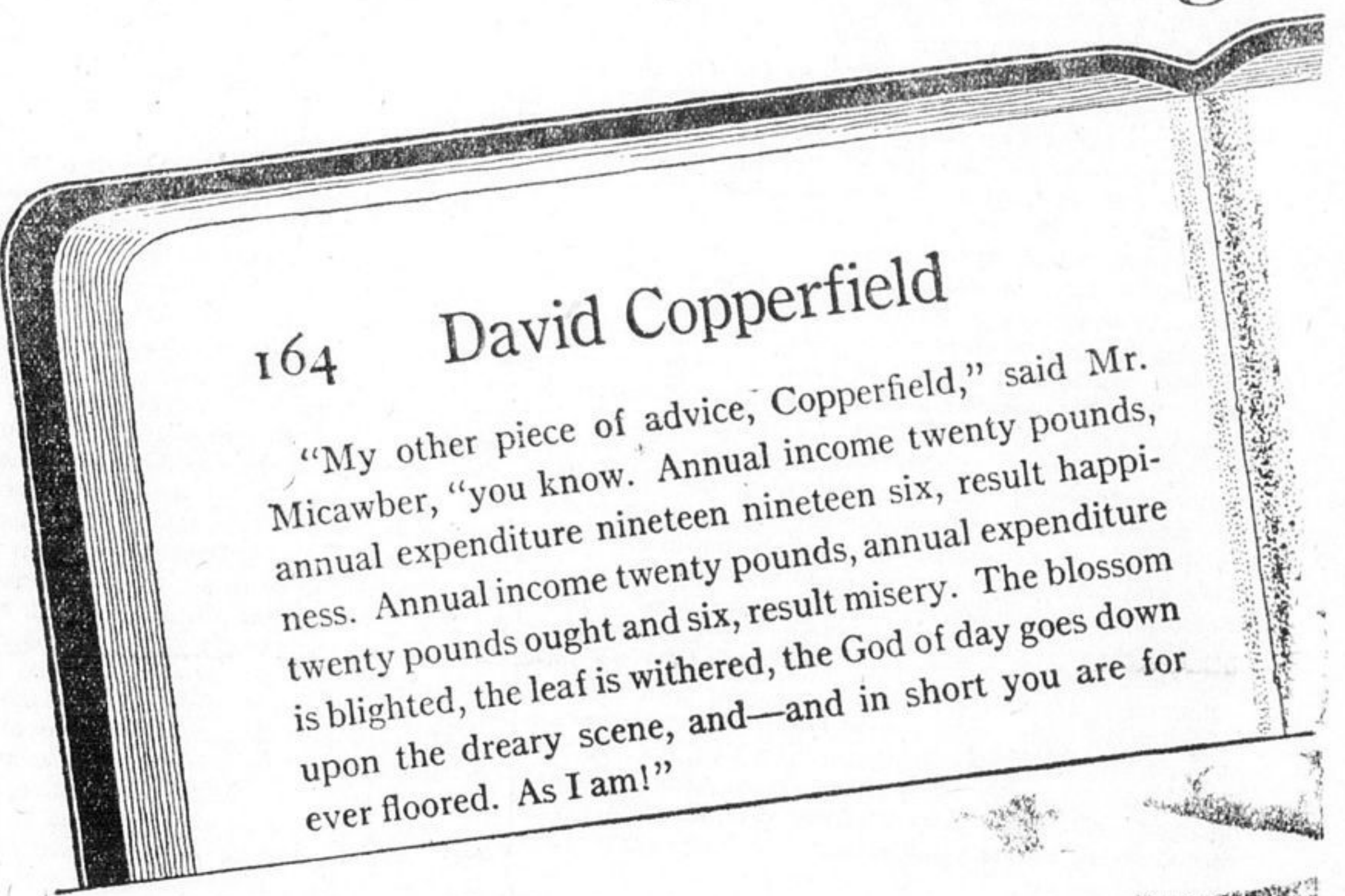


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