

## The Porcupine Advance

TIMMINS, ONTARIO

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### THE SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

Elsewhere in this issue a correspondent asks The Advance to join the battle led by the Canadian Legion to assure a decent living for the wives and families of the soldiers while the latter are on active service. The Advance has been in that battle for months. Indeed, The Advance entered such an engagement during the last war and has continued on active service in that particular without a single long leave. During the last war it was plainly proved that soldiers and soldiers' dependents alike received much less than a fair deal from the country. The issue was confused by too much emphasis being placed on the idea that Canada provided much better for its soldiers and soldiers' dependents than did other countries. That, of course, was not the issue. What was needed,—what is needed—is that Canada should deal fairly and justly with the soldiers and their dependents. Anything less is an injustice and a disgrace.

For weeks past The Advance has been urging the application of the cost of living bonus to soldiers and soldiers' dependents. If such a bonus is justified in any case it is particularly so in regard to the wives and families of soldiers on active service. The present-day cry is for equal service and sacrifice from all, yet the present set-up leaves the soldiers and their families serving and sacrificing to such an extent that others are doing nothing in comparison. The soldier gives his strength, his health, his limb, his life, his all to the service of his country. His family sacrifice in a way others are not called upon to sacrifice. For both the soldier and the soldier's family there should be more than a precarious living.

As a matter of sound business it will be of benefit to the country to provide generously for the soldiers' dependents. The soldier will be a better soldier if he knows that his loved ones are free from hardship at home. He will be the more efficient and the more effective if he is freed from worry about his wife and family, and can give his undivided attention to the grim business to hand. On the grounds of expediency alone the country should look after the families of its soldiers, but still more as a matter of honour, of justice, of decency, this country should see that the dependents of the soldiers are treated justly and even generously. No money will really pay for the sacrifices they are offering, but a fair chance for decent living and freedom from actual hardship will at the least save the honour of the country.

The correspondent's letter in this issue makes it very plain that present allowances are not fair nor just to the families of the soldiers. He cites a number of local cases to prove his case. There are literally scores of other local cases that might be quoted as proof of the contentions of the writer. One local man suggested that sixty odd dollars a month would provide a fair living for a woman and four children. The same man another day was taking the attitude that \$130.00 per month was inadequate pay for a worker, even though he were single. This attitude surely makes it plain how unjustly the families of the soldiers are asked to make undue sacrifices.

The Canadian Legion is to be commended for the earnest and zealous way in which it has worked to assure fair treatment for the soldier's family as well as for the soldier himself. The Timmins Branch of the Legion especially deserves credit for its work along this line. The correspondent asks the support of The Advance, the service clubs and other organizations. There should be this support, but there should be much more. There should be the heartiest support of all the patriotic public. It is a matter of honour as well as of justice. Every man and woman can do his or her part by moral support and by active endeavour. Parliamentary representatives should be canvassed for their active and open support and letters should be written to the government insisting on a fair deal to the soldiers and their dependents.

### SUPPORT THE SOLDIERS

Yes, this is another appeal for support for a worthy cause—another appeal for money, for moral support, for active work. And if anyone should suggest that there are too many calls these days, the answer to that is to the effect that the people on behalf of whom this appeal is made are the men upon whom the freedom and the very life of this country depend—the soldiers—the soldiers of this war and the soldiers of the last war.

This appeal is for the most generous support to the Legion's annual Poppy Day. As has been the custom for many years, Timmins Branch of the Canadian Legion, asks for fullest support for this particular cause. Publicity issued by the Legion suggests that the Poppy Fund is now a recognized institution wherever the Canadian Legion exists in this Dominion and that it serves a two-fold purpose of much merit. The money that is raised by the sale of the poppies is used entirely to relieve unusual distress among war veterans and their families, and poppies themselves being made by

disabled veterans in the Veterans Shops of Canada, assures sheltered employment for handicapped men whose disabilities are due to service to their country and to humanity.

While the Legion states that the Poppy Day fund has the two-fold purpose suggested, The Advance looks upon it as having a four-fold appeal, at least so far as the Timmins Legion is concerned. In addition to assuring profitable employment for disabled veterans of the last war and providing for needy cases among the soldiers and their dependents, the local Legion plans to build a fund to help the soldiers who return from the present war and to assist their families when in need. This surely adds much to the heart appeal of this year's Poppy Day. The fourth purpose seen by The Advance appears to be one that should not be overlooked. That is one of the original purposes of Poppy Day—the honouring of the brave men who risked their all to serve their day and generation in the war of 1914 to 1918. The country that ceases to honour gallantry and service fails to do its full duty. Poppies should be bought on Poppy Day to help the three worthy purposes here suggested, but poppies, also, should be worn proudly on Poppy Day to show ourselves and the wide world that the spirit of service and the genius of courage are held in high honour in this free land.

### AIR TRAINING IN NORTH

The Northern News of Kirkland Lake and many of the people of that area are urging the use of the air plane facilities at Round Lake for training men for the Canadian Air Force. From The New Liskeard Speaker and from citizens of Cobalt, Haileybury and New Liskeard comes the request that the air depot at Gillies Lake be utilized in the Canadian air training plan. Many months ago The Advance advocated the use of the flying field at Porquis Junction as a training ground for Canadian airmen. It would be a matter for regret if there should appear to be any local rivalry in these requests, or if the government should use that pretended rivalry as an excuse for ignoring all the requests and to continue the present system in the choice of new air training localities. The Advance will admit that in ordinary times the utilization of any of the resources of the North would have special appeal and be given particular advocacy. In times of war, however, sectional advantage must be forgotten. The purpose of The Advance in urging the use of the flying field at Porquis Junction was not to advance the North but to benefit Canada's part in the war, and there is every reason to believe that the rival proposals of today are all founded on similar motives. When the air training plan was commenced in this Dominion, it did appear that time and money were wasted in the location of the air training sites. Land had to be purchased and prepared at considerable cost, and sometimes at some profit, it is believed, to good party people. All this took time and money, while here in the North there were flying fields all ready and not in other use. All that seemed needed was the erection of buildings to house the airmen. The Advance was informed that the landing field at Porquis Junction (or Nellie Lake, as some term the location) was one of the finest on the continent. If necessary it could be extended without undue cost or trouble. The use of such a field for air training offered possibilities not available elsewhere. Climatic and other conditions should be no bar to the plan of utilizing Northern air bases. The fact that air training is being successfully carried on at Sault Ste. Marie proves beyond question that the climate and conditions in the North are not unfavourable. Indeed, those in position to know, argue that any difficulties in the way of weather or terrain would make the country the more valuable for training purposes. The suggestion has been made to The Advance that the present condition of the Porquis Junction flying field make it unsuitable for use for training purposes, cement runways being essential on account of the weight of the war planes. In answer to this it must be said that it would mean time and money saved to put in cement runways at Porquis Junction, rather than take the additional effort of buying, clearing and preparing the fields elsewhere. The whole question should be resolved into one of expediency—of time, money and practicability. The landing fields in the North are all ready for use—are already owned by the Government. If one or more of them could be utilized to advantage, the opportunity should not be overlooked.

### GRAVEL AND SAND—AND PLACER

The Huntingdon Gleaner has given notable public service by printing literally pages of comment from other newspapers opposing the building at the present time of the proposed St. Lawrence Waterway. The arguments against the project are so many and so important that it is a matter of wonder that the plan should be proposed at present. There is one reason alone why there should be no commencement at this time of the St. Lawrence Waterway—it would not assist the war effort, and it would divert millions of dollars from use for war purposes.

Another campaign has been started to increase the sale of War Savings stamps and certificates. In this campaign the objectives of the various centres are not given in terms of money, but in phrases suggesting the amount of war materials. For example, Toronto is supposed to sell enough War Savings stamps and certificates to pay for twelve bombers per month. Timmins is expected to finance one bomber a month. According to

population the proportion appears to be much out of line. Toronto has a population thirty times the size of that of Timmins. If Timmins is expected to provide one bomber a month, Toronto should give thirty. If Toronto escapes with only twelve bombers a month, Timmins should not be expected to provide more than five a year.

Still stands the motto of the King:—

"Put into your task whatever it may be all the courage and purpose of which you are capable. Keep your hearts proud and your resolve unshaken. Let us go forward to that task as one man, a smile on our lips and our heads held high, and with God's help we shall not fail."

Mussolini says that Italians to-day are bootlegging in the necessities of life. Some of the Italians used to do that in this North in the days of the Ontario Temperance Act.

### How the Blind Are Helping Themselves and Others To-day

An Inspiring Story Told by the Annual Report of the C.N.I.B.

The annual report of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind is just to hand, and an inspiring, a glorious story it tells. To do deal a little in statistics. The total assets of the Institute, as at March 1st, 1941, amounted to \$1,044,770.33, as against \$820,054.60 on the same date last year. The liabilities to public were \$247,184.86, a reduction of \$59,377.90 from the position a year ago. This shows progress and able management of affairs. There were 12,520 blind persons in Canada and Newfoundland on March 31st this year, 528 more than the year before. There were 25,959 registered as "prevention" cases—that means that these people are liable to lose their sight unless proper precautions are taken. One of the main objectives of the C.N.I.B. is the prevention of blindness and a constant campaign is carried on for the purpose of conserving vision and restoring sight.

There are also interesting statistics in regard to the growing use of Braille. The only Braille magazine published in Canada, "The Braille Courier," was "read" by 4,623 people last year, the Institute sending that many copies of the magazine each month without charge to blind readers in Canada and Newfoundland.

Data of a still more inspiring nature is given by Col. E. A. Baker, O.B.E., Managing Director of the C.N.I.B. In recording the progress of this great Canadian enterprise in the field of humanitarian development, this gallant hero of the last war says:—

"In Canada last year there were more blind people gainfully employed than in any previous year of the nation's history. There were more blind men and women in business. There were more blind people employed in handicrafts in their own homes. There were more blind home teachers employed in the instruction of blind adults. There were more pupils in this extensive, informal, essential school. There were more blind field service workers, spreading to a wider area the services which your Institute is able to render to blind men and women to whom some of the privileges enjoyed by the urban blind are necessarily denied. There were more blind people enjoying the facilities accorded by our libraries of Braille and Talking Books. There was, during the year just passed, a higher standard of living amongst the blind citizens of Canada than ever before attained.

"I think if I stopped right there, this could be considered a satisfactory report. It means that your Institute was on the job; that it has been earnestly working for the objects for which it was created; that it is alive, progressive, faithful to its trust. It means, that because of the energy we have been able to bring to bear on the solution of the problems of the blind, our Canadian blind people as a whole have been given a little greater security; have achieved a little more comfortable position in the social structure. From my knowledge of the day to day developments during the past twelve months and from a perusal of the reports submitted by the various divisions and departments, I find myself able to say, without qualification that it has been the most successful year in the history of the Institute."

But there is information in the annual report much more interesting and inspiring than even the data suggested. Perhaps the most enlightening feature of the report to most thoughtful people will prove to be the wealth of illustrations. There are photographs of the blind members of the National Council and the blind officials who carry on the Institution's administration in various parts of Canada. Timmins people will be proud of the fact that in these groups appears the photograph of Mr. H. C. Trener, of Timmins, who is a member of the National Council and is doing his full part to help in the good work for the blind. In the report there are illustrations of blind men and women at work on materials designed for use in war activity. There are charts showing the growth of the industrial establishments and the increased use of Talking books. There is a photograph of a blind farmer, seeding his crop with the assistance of his son. There is a picture of blind women knitting for the victims of the air bombardment of Britain. There is a picture of a blind man in charge of a portable canteen in a British Columbia shipyard. The report itself indicates that the year was one of steady progress, but if anyone wants to know what The Canadian National Institute

Reports are current that Marshal Timoshenko, the Russian general, has been relieved of his command. It is to be hoped that recent publicity given a man in this North claiming to be a brother of the Russian general had nothing to do with the case.

One of those statistical gentlemen has figured out that in 1900 not one woman in 2,000 wore silk stockings. It looks as if history will repeat itself.

The way of the hitch-hiker is hard. Two young men who had escaped from the reformatory at Guelph this week "thumbed" a ride from a pleasant motorist who seemed to take genuine pleasure in accommodating them. He proved to be an attendant from the reformatory, travelling in plain clothes, and the hitch-hikers were not so pleased when they landed back at the institution from which they had escaped.

for the Blind means in the lives of blind Canadians, he need only look at the illustrations; they constitute pictorial proof that, through The C.N.I.B. blind Canadians have been given an opportunity to become real citizens, and are making good use of it.

### More Than Five Hundred Men Join Army Since May

Over Three Hundred from Timmins Alone. Total for District Over Five Hundred.

From the end of May till the end of September this year the recruiting centre in Timmins has sent 329 men into the Canadian Active Army. These men were all recruited in Timmins. Two other recruiting offices opened about the end of May in Cochrane and Kapuskasing, have contributed another 190 men. Ninety-eight of these men were from Kapuskasing and ninety-two were from Cochrane.

No records of men sent into the army before May of this year were available when The Advance called at the recruiting offices this week. Since May 16th, a close record of men leaving for the army has been kept. The figures for this month are expected to swell the total by at least another hundred men.

### Autumn Thanksoffering Meeting of Timmins W. M. S.

Mrs. J. Teeple, first vice-president of the Women's Missionary Society of Timmins United Church, occupied the chair at the autumn thanksoffering meeting, in the absence of the president, Mrs. A. Gillies. The members were all pleased to learn that Mrs. Gillies is improving greatly in health.

their cleverness at embroidery and their skill at woodwork. Today the Chinese have a motto, and it is:—"Work together."

### APPREHENSIVE

"I read there's to be a shortage of fruit this year."  
"Yeah? Well, I hope they won't get to ringing about it like they did when we had that shortage of bananas a few years ago!"—Exchange.



They Used To Call Her "Spoiled Brat"

She had a nasty little temper that was notorious in the neighbourhood. But, contrary to everyone's opinion, it didn't come from being spoiled—her parents certainly didn't coddle her. It was her eyesight that made her chronically irritable... eyestrain that increased her nervous tension. Glasses changed her into a normal sociable youngster!

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### Getting Along On Smaller Incomes

The Family Man's Position:

"I have no kick on what the Government needs of my income to win the war. My problem is to get along on what is left without neglecting the future welfare of my family. Since I've been forced to revise my budget, I'm more dependent on life insurance than ever."

The London Life meets the needs of those who have to get along on smaller incomes by low premium plans containing special Interchange privileges. For example, a man age 30 could purchase \$10,000 Earning Power 15 Year Term insurance for a yearly premium of \$96.50 (less annual dividends). Five years later he could use the Interchange privilege to advantage and obtain Ordinary Life or Endowment insurance.

Ask one of our representatives for full information.

The reduced income figures at the top are based on the new Dominion Income Tax rates and National Defence Tax for married men with no dependents. Provincial income tax (if any) would reduce these incomes still more.

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