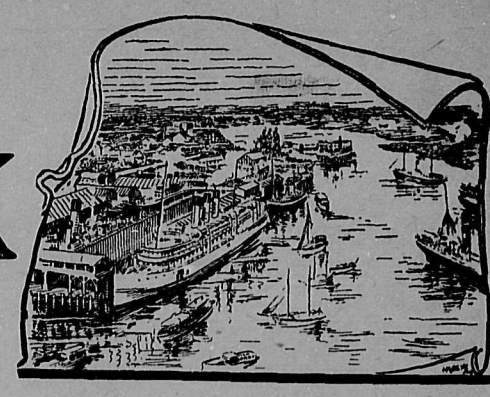
The Week



A British Columbia Newspaper and Review

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National Service

SINCE the introduction of the Military Conscription Bill by Sir Robert Borden, public opinion has been focussed upon the availability and wisdom of utilizing the man-power of the Dominion for the purpose of assisting in the vigorous prosecution of the war. Objectors to the bill have been many. Chiefly the view has been expressed that the Bill is too limited in its scope. A further view has been taken that voluntaryism is better for the object than compulsion. Free labor is better than forced labor. Other objections have been founded upon nationality—the Quebec point-of-view as against the general view held by the other provinces. Organized labor generally has been opposed to the bill, and principally because that wealth or capital has not been conscripted. The conscientious objector also has been heard from with effect. When the measure was first being discussed, THE WEEK laid it down as a principle that if the statesmen of Canada deemed it necessary to enact conscription, then such a measure should be so framed as to place at the National Service all the man-power and resources of the Dominion:

MEN, SERVICE, WEALTH

As the discussion upon the measure has proceeded in the country, it has been evident that a pretty general support is accorded to the conscription of men. Principles, academic discussions on abstract opinions and administrative methods have been swept aside in the keen desire of the nation to provide men of military fitness for the front. Parliament has been asked for its opinion and by large majorities have supported the measure. MEN are needed and whether justly or not, the nation's requirements are paramount to individual opinion and objection, and the State must be served. The demand that wealth must be conscripted also has become more insistent. If a man is asked to adventure his life, it is a small thing to ask that riches should be conscripted in the service of the country. Wealth is not so sacred as human life; property is as nothing worth compared with humanity itself. The riches of a Rockefeller—rightly appraised—is not equal to the worth of a child, whose budding intelligence and sweet innocence are more to the life of any nation than any material possessions. It is reported that a notable personage of great influence in the world once said: *"All that a man hath will he give for his life,"* and generations of men since the time the statement was made have abundantly verified its accuracy and wisdom.

WEALTH

The conscription of wealth should not be taken in hand in a half-hearted manner. All that wealth actually is, and all that it represents should be held for the service of the nation. Lands, buildings, monies wheresoever found, stocks, shares, bonds, mortgages, property in goods, food, fuel, should contribute to the great struggle now being waged in Europe. The infinitesimal amounts obtained through the taxes imposed upon war profits are ridiculous in view of Canada's great need, and should impose on no person alive to the critical situation of the national life. Well might the poet Goldsmith write:

"Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates and men decay;
Princes and peers may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

SERVICE

There has been but little interest taken in the milder demand for the conscription of national service, meaning by that term, the utilization for the purpose of the state every man or woman who is capable of performing any useful service or labor in the Dominion. Parliament has declared that an emergency exists which calls for heroic measures; a crisis that demands the forced sacrifice of countless thousands of the flower of Canadian manhood. To this the country appears to have assented. Both reason and justice demands that if men in the prime of their physical powers may be sent to the battlefields of Europe then those remaining at home must also be used for home service in the widest possible sense. There are vast numbers of men in Canada beyond the age and lacking the drastic requirements of military fitness who are fully capable of the production of those things which are now vital to the life of the nation. Food, fuel, clothing, munitions, machinery and ships have assumed gigantic importance in the outlook of the Empire, and it is more than doubtful whether the contribution that Canada could now make to the world-war would not be greater if the whole of its abounding energies were expended upon the production of the necessaries of life. To do this requires that all the resources of labor must be placed unequivocally at the disposal of the Government. Communal necessity demands it. The cry that such a proposal would be veiled Socialism need have no terrors for thinking, intelligent citizens. Conscription is War-Socialism. National Service is War-and-Peace Socialism combined. Terms need not frighten the most timid and conservative. In the presence of national danger, abstract theories and concrete principles must be waived. The time of protest against war in the abstract, against methods of war-waging is past. The Empire is at war: Canada is at war, and half-measures are of no avail. If the consensus of the opinion and judgment of the Parliament of Canada has declared for the unreserved prosecution of the war, then Canada's last man must be laid under contribution for national service at home and abroad, for battle front, for home defence, for food production and for all the necessities of the nation, and in addition thereto every dollar owned by the rich, and every cent owned by the poor, must be conscripted. War knows no law, and the stern and awful reality of the great tragedy must be driven home to the national mind. Consequently the business store, professional office, the factory, the amusement hall, the home of the leisured classes, the abode of the loafer and idler must be systematically examined and its occupants held for national service, and for national use. Exempted trades, callings, professions and occupations would properly be scheduled, and systematised registration for all Canadian citizens be put in force. Aliens also must find their useful place in the body politic. The watchword that THE WEEK would give is that of THOROUGH; *all of enforced service or none.*

Scientific Taxation

HON. H. C. BREWSTER, the then Minister of Finance, in introducing the budget at the recent sitting of the House, admitted that the new taxation was unscientific. From his standpoint the admission was a very damaging one but from the standpoint of the tax reformer the admission is most encouraging. Exactly why a Finance Minister should impose taxation at variance with the economic law we are at a complete loss to understand. Still less are we able to understand why he should do so with eyes open and disdain aforethought. But the tax reformer is distinctly encouraged by the recognition in high places that there is a Science of Taxation. Hitherto the very existence of such a science has been conveniently ignored or denied by the moribund has-beens who control the tax machinery of governments—federal, provincial or municipal. Here and there has arisen a Tom L. Johnston, a Pastorisa or a Fred. C. Howe, but these are exceptions which prove the rule. If the truth of this statement be doubted, the doubt will be instantly removed by conversation with the amiable but obsolete old gentleman who has controlled the tax machinery of this Province for a great many years. He knows a great deal about the tax schemes, cunning and otherwise, usually relied on by government circumlocution offices, but he knows nothing and cares less about the progress made in recent years by the new Science of Taxation. Now, however, that the Premier of the Province has openly, if coldly, saluted the arrival of this very important branch of economics, progressives are hoping that the tax situation may be surveyed from a different standpoint. Failing this it will be their duty to agitate for the removal from office of the man who, more than any other, blocks provincial development. Better far to place such a man in a position of well paid inactivity than to continue any longer to allow him to clog the wheels of progress. For the moment, however, we are content to emphasize the fact that a Premier of the Province of British Columbia has recognized that taxation is a science as absolute as the science of mathematics and one, the truth of which, is as clearly demonstrable: Citizens will expect him in future to test proposed provincial imposts by the accepted canons of the science and thus forever avoid impediments to production and exchange, and those popular outbursts of indignation which at present seem to threaten the very existence of the Brewster Administration. It will not suffice for any minister to imagine that the need for public revenue may be satisfied by the whims of fancy and the exercise of arbitrary power. Henceforth the mandates of LAW, economic and moral, must be rigidly obeyed. It will be the imperative duty of ministers and permanent officials to acquaint themselves with the science and forever end the economic and material chaos which is the shame of our boasted civilization. (In our next issue THE WEEK will consider the canons of the science.)

A VACATION PARTY ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

Anti-Conscriptionists are Angry With the Week

THE WEEK has received from Mr. Phil R. Smith, of the Victoria Printing & Publishing Co., Ltd., an indignant protest against certain observations in our *Sotto Voce* column last week. Mr. Smith is reminded that THE WEEK is an open forum for the discussion of public issues and that he and his anti-conscriptionist friends have received due facilities for making their case clear to the public. More than that they have no right to expect. THE WEEK will most certainly continue to exercise its right to comment freely on any movements which it conceives to be inimical to the public interest. Conscription has become an imperative necessity in the opinion of most well informed Canadians and our duty therefore is clear. The remarks in *Sotto Voce* were not intended as a reflection on either Mr. Smith or Mr. Peirce personally. We are aware that both gentlemen have willingly sent their sons to the battlefields of Europe and in each case their sons have been wounded in the Imperial cause. For this reason we desire to bear as patiently as possible with their idiosyncracies but cannot forego our right to criticize the work on which they are now engaged.

Returned Soldier Problem

THE attention of THE WEEK has been called to the case of a discharged returned soldier who is being recalled to active service overseas. The man is married, has a large family, has been severely wounded in the fields of France and has earned a complete rest. It appears the shortage of men is such that, in the opinion of the authorities, his services cannot be dispensed with and for the second time he must bid farewell to his family and for the second time the wife must see her mainstay depart to what appears to be certain death. The case illustrates the great need for men on the one hand and the need for single men of military age being called upon to do their bit on the other. Men who have served and have secured honorable discharge should not again be called upon until the ranks of the slackers have been thoroughly sifted. THE WEEK hopes that by drawing attention to the case the authorities may be led to spare the men who have already discharged their obligation. Public opinion should assert itself and insist on a square deal to returned men.

Dominion Wide Prohibition

IT is regrettable that the Federal authorities have not seen their way to prohibit the liquor traffic for the duration of the war. They alone have the power to prohibit its manufacture and they alone can secure harmonious co-operation between all the provincial districts. The talk about a win-the-war policy loses much of its force on the public mind when the average man sees how tenderly vested interests are treated by the powers that be. The liquor trade is a large consumer of valuable grain. The man on the street sees no reason why he should be urged to strict economy while there is grain to spare for the manufacture of what is at best a luxury and what by many is regarded as an ally of the enemy. The inaction of Ottawa will not excuse inaction by the Brewster Government. It is much to be hoped that this Province at least will do its part to win the war by eliminating all agencies calculated to assist the common foe.

Open Up the Land

THE following statement from the pen and thought of Carl Vrooman, United States Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, contains some very important and pointed principles and very concisely expressed. Our Local and Dominion Governments would do well to look into those proposals. Whether it is a win-the-war or permanent land policy, it matters but little. The sooner the occupancy of the land is considered and directed on a reasonable and economic basis the better it will be for governments and people. We commend a strict perusal of the statement of this gentleman high up in the counsels of our sister commonwealth:—

In addition to the emergency food bills in Congress, the country is in need of a land programme that will permanently insure maximum use of our food resources. The farmer's greatest difficulty has been inadequate facilities for marketing and distributing his products. The new legislation will go far toward solving these problems, but there is another side to the food problem.

Millions of acres of farm land are being held out of use and other millions of acres are being cultivated on a wasteful and inefficient basis. Land values have risen at an unprecedented rate. They are based not upon what the farm will earn at the present time, but on an expectancy of what it will be worth in the future. The farmer's son or the tenant farmer, with little or no capital, cannot hope to acquire possession of a farm when the price of land is so high that his earnings would not pay the interest on the investment. The result is that land remains idle or in the hands of tenants and thousands of farmers' boys desert the country for the city.

We cannot expect to get them back on the land unless we hold out to them the hope of becoming farm owners. The economic condition of many farm tenants is below that of the skilled or semi-skilled day laborer of the industrial centers.

What we need, and need badly, is a programme of taxation which, without throwing additional burdens on the bona fide farmer, will place land now idle within the reach of men of limited means who possess the ambition and the ability to cultivate it.

A proposal has been introduced in Congress by Senator Kenyon to direct an investigation by the Federal Tariff Commission or some other competent body into additional sources of revenue, including the possibility of levying a surtax on idle land and other natural resources held out of use.

A doubt exists as to the possibility under the Constitution of a Federal surtax on idle land. There is a sharp difference of opinion as to whether or not such a tax could be levied. The situation should be clarified by an investigation and a report from some competent body. If a constitutional amendment is necessary it should be initiated without delay. In the meantime, state and local governments should direct their attention to this phase of the food problem and take what steps are wise and practicable to place unused land within the reach of all who are willing and able to cultivate it.

BOOK AND BOOK-MAKERS

..By Miss Stero Calvert

JAMES STEPHENS

Sometimes, even nowadays, we find ourselves with a few minutes to spare—time enough perhaps to unlock the gate of Fairyland, if only we could discover the key. But the key is not so very far to seek. It lies (together with other interesting things) in the Public Library, tucked away between the pages of certain small, slim volumes by Mr. James Stephens.

James Stephens' origin is shrouded in mystery. Some call him a changeling, and say that at nightfall he takes his elfin shape and flies away on the bat's back after summer. A well-known contemporary, St. John Ervine, is convinced that he was found tangled in the tree-tops, having dropped straight from Heaven like his own demigods. At all events, we know *that he holds communion* with strange spirits. Earth, air and water whisper him their secrets, and, with inimitable delicacy and tenderness, he makes for them a "local habitation."

In "Demigods" he ushers us with a quip and a quirk into his own kinddom of Topsy-Turvy. It is a dream of Heaven and Hell and the green Earth, of Rhadamanthus, of archangels and laughing, passionate humans, *of the circling stars* and twilight and the long grass. Earthly values are of no account in this whimsical dream world.

"Good and bad and right and wrong,
Wave the silly words away;
This is wisdom to be strong,
This is virtue to be gay;
Let us sing and dance until
We shall know the final art,
How to banish good and ill
With the laughter of the heart."

The spider and the little ass are immortal souls; Patsy McCann's bacon, sizzling on the embers, is a thing of vast import. And when the time comes for awakening, we would fain turn over on the other side.

But perhaps the most charming of James Stephens' works is the story of the charwoman's daughter and her wonderful mother, Mrs. Makebelieve. Mrs. Makebelieve seldom washed. "She held that washing was very unhealthy and took the natural gloss off the face, and that moreover, soap either tightened the skin or made it wrinkle. Her own face was very tight in some places and very loose in others, and Mary Makebelieve often thought that the tight places were spots which her mother used to wash when she was young, and the loose parts those which had never been washed at all. She thought that she would prefer to be either loose all over her face or tight all over it, and, therefore, when she washed she did it thoroughly, and, when she abstained, she allowed of no compromise."

But Mrs. Makebelieve taught her daughter much wisdom unconnected with washing, and ranging from the scientific scrubbing of floors to the art of dress, the interpretation of dreams, and the facing of life with imagination and courage. On the question of noses, for instance—Mary Makebelieve had misgivings because her own "had tried so hard not to be a nose at all."

"Big noses suit some people," said her mother, "but they do not suit others, and one would not suit you, dearie. They go well with black-haired people, and very tall people, military gentlemen, judges and apothecaries; but small fair folk cannot support great noses. I like my own nose," she continued. "At school, when I was a little girl, the other girls used to laugh at my nose, but I always liked it, and after a time other people came to like it also."

Other people drift in and out of Mary's life. "In a little city like Dublin one meets every person one knows within a few days. Around each bend in the road there is a friend, an enemy, or a bore striding towards you, so that, with a piety which is almost religious, one says 'touch wood' before turning any corner." There is Mrs. Cafferty, a "vast woman with a laugh like the rolling of a great wind" and "a voice that ruled the din as a fog-horn rules the waves." And very often Mary Makebelieve would find round the corner the massive policeman who guided the traffic at the Grafton Street crossing.

We leave Mary at last with the world still all before her: "She will go forward to do that which is pleasing to the gods, for less than that she cannot do, and more is not to be expected of any one."

And for Mary's *creator—I think* the praise he would most appreciate would be the round-eyed exclamation of astonishment made by one of his own vagabonds, "Aren't you the queer man, Padraig?"

Some Ventilation

American people have a very high appreciation of the humor of Englishmen, and have been specially tickled by a story Colonel Cody used to tell. He said that some years ago an Englishman who had never been in the West before was his guest. They were riding through a Rocky Mountain canyon one day when suddenly a tremendous gust came sweeping down upon them and actually carried the Englishman clean off the wagon seat. After he had been picked up, he combed the sand and gravel out of his whiskers and said, "I say! I think you overdo ventilation in this country!"

GREAT THOUGHTS

Remember the week day to keep it holy.

* * *

Never explain—your friends do not need it, and your enemies will not believe you anyway.

* * *

To escape criticism: Do nothing; say nothing; be nothing.

* * *

We are punished by our sins, not for them.

* * *

No man gets nervous prostration pushing his business; you get it only when the business pushes you."

* * *

Co-operate and assist—not criticize and find fault.

* * *

Thanksgiving of a great victory:—
Ye hypocrites! Are those your pranks?
To murder, and gie God thanks!
For shame! Gie o'er—proceed no further—
God won't accept your thanks for murder. —Burns.

* * *

In politics if thou wouldst mix,
An' mean thy fortunes be;
Bear this in mind!—Be deaf and blind;
Let great folks hear and see.
—Burns.

* * *

Gie me a spark o' nature's fire!
That's a' the learnin' I desire;
Then though I drudge through mud *and mire*
At plough or cart,
My muse, though homely in attire,
May touch the heart.
—Burns.

* * *

When a bit of sunshine hits ye,
After passing of a cloud,
When a fit of laughter gets ye,
And your spine is feelin' proud,
Don't forget to up and fling it
At a soul that's feelin' blue,
For the minute that ye sling it,
It's a boomerang for you."
—Crawford.

* * *

No legacy is so rich as honesty.—Shakespeare.

* * *

Honor and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the *honor* lies. —Pope.

* * *

Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam,
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home. —Payne.

* * *

Man's inhumanity to man
Makes countless thousands mourn.
—Burns.

* * *

Is life worth living? Yes, so long
As there is wrong to right,
Wail of the weak against the strong,
Or tyranny to fight."
—Austin.

Archbishop Trench, seeing one day in Dublin a little girl trying to reach a door knocker, came to her assistance.

"Rap hard!" said the little innocent.

He did.

"Now, run like the very divil!"

A Boston woman applied for a pension the other day.

"And pray, madam," asked the pension examiner, "why do you think yourself entitled to a pension?"

"My husband and I fought all through the war," was the reply.

He—*Didn't I hear that your son* expects to be a veterinary?

She—Why, no—he hasn't even enlisted, yet.

"Behind the altar," said the cathedral guide to a party of tourists, "lies Richard II. In the church yard outside lies Mary Queen of Scots. And who"— halting above an unmarked flagging in the stone floor and ad*dressing a tourist from London*—"who do you thing, sir, is a-lying 'ere on this spot?"

"Well," answered the cockney, "I don't know for sure, but I have my suspicions."

MILITARY ROADS

By H. B. C. POLLARD

*There is a suggestion of easy, open-*air conditions about the term road-making. It conveys a mental picture of leisurely laborers stolidly tending a road surface, and calls to mind visions of steam-rollers, piles of road metal, and a slow, heavy and uninteresting avocation. This may be true of roadwork in the happy days of peace, but the task of the roadmaker during war is by no means leisurely, *nor peaceful, and is absorbingly* interesting.

From the earliest days of warfare, good roads and communications have been absolutely essential to the successful prosecution of military aims. In these days, when war is a colossal struggle of millions and the operations are largely stationary in character, roads become of the utmost importance and the business of keeping *them in repair becomes one of the* abiding pre-occupations of the engineering staff of the army.

The road staff has a separate existence of its own, for it is one of those bodies of specialized engineers that have been created to cope with a situation unforeseen before the revelations of modern European warfare. Their duties embrace not only the subject of road maintenance and the creation *of new roads for military* purposes but, in addition to this, they have to prepare in advance for the repair of the roads in occupied territory, roads which are always damaged as much as possible by the enemy before a retreat, and have also to consider the whole problem of getting supplies of material for road maintenance to the places where they are needed.

This last named task is one of the least obvious, but in point of fact one of the most serious problems that has to be faced. In a country such as Belgium whole districts, like that round Ypres, are simply clay and gravel sand, and the natural stone suitable for road repair must in the ordinary way be brought from far away. Today, in many cases, these natural sources of supply lie behind the enemy lines and, in addition, the existing road and rail service upon the Allied side is already taxed to its utmost to bring up supplies of food and war material.

The securing of adequate supplies of suitable road metal therefore presents grave problems, particularly when it is borne in mind that a cubic yard of macadam weighs a ton, a ten-ton truck will only hold enough road metal to repair thirty yards of six-foot road, and the army area served by one railroad may contain a hundred miles or more of road. Under such conditions it is obvious that anything like a high standard of road surface is out of the question. All that can be done is to strive incessantly with the problem and keep the roads in as good repair as is humanly possible.

To begin with most of the Belgian roads were made of prismoidal blocks of granite called pave. These were set with their wedge-shaped points inlaid upon a bed of clain sand overlaying the surface of the natural soil. Along the edges of the two-metre tracks of pave are set a series of big slabs one foot long, six inches wide and two feet deep. The purpose of these is to maintain the pave blocks *within limits and prevent lateral* spread. Beyond these "longins" runs a two metre wide strip of clay, then comes a shallow ditch. The camber of the pave is set high, almost hog backed in its curve, in order to shed rain water, and no system of sub-soil drains are provided because in this part of Flanders there is little or no drainage fall, and in the wet season most ditches are full and have *no apparent flow of water in either* direction. The absence of sub-soil drains served the purpose of keeping the road bed of clay free from permeating water and, though contrary to established practice, was yet the custom of the country and based upon experience.

These pave roads were called upon to withstand stupendous wear and tear, for it has been calculated that *three days' army traffic was more* than the annual traffic of normal times. As a result, in the winter of 1914, the clay boundary banks were soon churned into mud, the longins displaced and the pave loosened and overturned, till it sank into deep pot-holes.

In order to cope with this, the clay sides were also rendered negotiable by wheeled traffic and were corduroyed *with alternate faggots of brush* good and billetts of green wood, the whole held, rope ladder fashion, by single strand nine millimetre galvanized iron wire which was used locally for the staying of hop poles. Lateral support was provided by staying the longins with horizontal poles staked in place, and bordering the corduroy upon the ditch side with a similar system of longitudinal poles and stakes so arranged as to prevent the outside ends of the faggots lifting.

In setting narrow corduroy for road borders, care must be taken to reverse the camber when laying the new track. After a certain amount of traffic has gone over it, it will be sufficiently depressed to come into correct line and should then be given a top dressing of fine macadam which holds well upon the soling provided by the corduroy and is extremely wear resisting. When pave has gone too far, and cannot be reset or patched up, it should be set upside down and used as soling. With a six-inch layer of macadam and broken house brick, a good cement forms which wears well and is water resistant to a surprising degree.

Another difficulty which needed special measures was the extreme narrowness of the turning angles in secondary and bye-roads. These routes had in the past been arbitrarily determined by local land interests, and in many cases were unsuitable and dangerous to motor traffic. In these cases the whole curve has had to be reset, and a new road made across the corner of the old agricultural land. As the mud is peculiarly slippery and dangerous to motor traffic in bad weather the cambering of curves has been met in some cases by high banking, almost resembling a cycle track. This has been found to minimize accidents and prevent congestion.

The actual repair of roads damaged by artillery fire is best carried out by pioneer troops, equipped with light motor transport in the shape of lorries with screw tip bodies. The special need has created a special vehicle, so sprung and reinforced that it can carry a five ton load of road metal over bad roads without being knocked to pieces. At the beginning it was found that the ordinary transport lorry could not cope with the dead weight of metal, but the problem is now satisfactorily solved. Shell craters involve a considerable amount of work, and the repair of a big crater can easily absorb some forty tons of metal. In practice, repairs are made with a filling of earth, then soling, then macadam, and only in cases of extreme urgency is the hole filled with road metal in its entirety.

For the road repairs during an advance, strips of wired corduroy can be lifted from old roads, rolled into drums and carried up on lorries to be relaid in recaptured territory. Speed is the essential factor, and roads so laid over ordinary agricultural land are easily negotiable by transport pending repairs to the existing routes which have been damaged by artillery fire or enemy mines.

The British labor and pioneer units work in the fire zone, exposed to frequent danger and considerable hardships. The personnel usually consists of old and slightly invalid soldiers, but the work is all important and is carried out with wonderful disregard of danger and with genuine soldierly spirit. Their efforts have been the subject of a commendatory order by the Field Marshal, and they have proved their vital importance as a modern military unit.

Here's to the friends we love so well,
To those so far away!
If a drink of cheer would bring them here,
We would drink the livelong day.

* * *

Here's to the land of the Shamrock so green,
Here's to each lad and his darling colleen,
Here's to the ones we love dearest and most,
And may God save old Ireland!—that's an Irishman's toast.

The leader of the orchestra is always the man who has played second fiddle.

* * *

Speak well of every one if you speak of them at all—none of us is so very good.—Hubbard.

DEAF PEOPLE

DEAFNESS AND NOISES IN THE HEAD can now be most certainly cured by the newly discovered "French Orlene." This new remedy goes right to the actual seat of the trouble, and effects a complete and lasting cure in a few days.

One box is ample to cure any ordinary case, and has given almost immediate relief in hundreds of cases which had been considered "hopeless."

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Please mention this paper

My dreams were always beautiful,
My thoughts were high and pure;
No life was ever lived on earth—
To match those dreams of mine."
—Henry Van Dyke.

* * *

Thanks, the exchequer of the poor.
—Shakespeare.

BOOT REPAIRING

By

HIBBS

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VICTORIA, B.C.

PHONE 1634

ESTATE OF JAMES NOTMAN, Deceased

ALL persons having claims against the Estate of James Notman, late of Victoria, B.C., contractor, are required to send particulars thereof, duly verified, to the undersigned, not later than the 15th day of July, 1917, after which date the undersigned administrator will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have notice.

Dated this 8th day of June, 1917.

ERNEST LYALL TAIT,
Administrator of the Estate of James Notman, deceased, 10th Floor, B. C. Permanent Loan Bldg., Victoria, B.C.

July 7-28

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having claims against the estate of Emily Matthews McDonald, who died at the City of Victoria, on the 9th day of June, 1917, are required to send particulars of their claim, duly verified, to the undersigned solicitors for the executor, Right Reverend Joseph Leterme, on or before the 15th day of August, 1917. After that date the executor will proceed to distribute the estate among those entitled having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have notice, and he will not be liable for the said assets to any person of whose claim he shall not have received particulars.

BARNARD, ROBERTSON,
HEISTERMAN & TAIT,
Solicitors for Rt. Rev. Joseph Leterme, Executor, 10th Floor, B.C. Permanent Loan Building, Victoria, B.C.

July 14 aug 4

LAND ACT

Form No. 11
Form of Notice
Renfrew Land District, District of Victoria.

TAKE NOTICE that The Lummi Bay Packing Co., Ltd., of 602 Pacific Building, Vancouver, Canners and Sawmill Operators, intends to apply for permission to lease the following described foreshore lands covered at high water level.

Commencing at a post planted the southwest corner of lot 528, thence true north a distance of 1,200 feet, more or less, to high water mark on the eastern shore of Nitinat Lake, thence south-easterly and southwesterly following the said high water mark of the said Nitinat Lake to the point of commencement and containing 6 acres more or less.

The Lummi Bay Packing Co., Ltd.,
F. A. DEVEREUX, B.C.L.S., Agent.

July 7 Sept 7

WATER NOTICE

Use and Storage

TAKE NOTICE that The Lummi Bay Packing Co., Ltd., whose address is 602 Pacific Building, Vancouver, will apply for a licence to take and use (all the water), 84 acre feet, and to store 84 acre feet of water out of Wy-al Creek and Lake, which flows westerly and drains into Nitinat Lake, about 500 feet north-east of the southwest corner of lot 528, Renfrew District.

The storage-dam will be located at about 1,500 feet westerly from the outlet of Wy-al Lake. The capacity of the reservoir to be created is about 20 ac. 84 ac. ft., and it will flood about 13 acres of land. The water will be diverted from the stream at a point about 1,600 feet east of the southwest corner of lot 528, and will be used for Class A Domestic (Steams). Miscellaneous purpose upon the land, described as lot No. 528.

This notice was posted on the ground on the 4th day of June, 1917.

A copy of this notice and an application pursuant thereto and to the "Water Act, 1914," will be filed in the office of the Water *Recorder at Victoria.*

Objections to the application may be filed with the said Water Recorder or with the Comptroller of Water Rights, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B. C., within thirty days after the first appearance of this notice in a local newspaper.

The Lummi Bay Packing Co., Ltd.,
F. A. DEVEREUX, Agent.

The date of the first publication of this notice is June 16th, 1917.

July 7-28.

NOTICE

TAKE NOTICE that Popham Bros., Ltd., intends, at the expiration of one month from the first publication of this notice, to apply to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies to approve its change of name from Popham Bros., Ltd., to "Ormond's, Ltd."

Dated at Victoria, B.C., this 5th day of June, 1917.

GEO. A. MORPHY,
Solicitor for Popham Bros., Ltd.

PUBLIC WORKS OF CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA DREDGING FLEET

REPAIRS TO DREDGE "MASTODON"

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned until 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 5th of July, for repairs and general overhaul of the Departmental Dredge "Mastodon" No. 306.

Each tender must be sent in in a sealed envelope endorsed "Tender for Repairs to Dredge 'Mastodon'."

Specifications can be seen at the office of A. F. Mitchell, Esq., Acting District Engineer, Victoria, B.C., and at the Office of C. C. Worsfold, Esq., District Engineer, New Westminster, B. C., and at the office of the undersigned, 614-18 Birks Building, Vancouver, B. C.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted cheque on a Chartered Bank, payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works for the sum of $800.00 (Eight Hundred Dollars), which will be forfeited if the person tendering decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or fail to complete the contract. If the tender be not accepted, the cheque will be returned.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

C. C. WORSFOLD,
Acting Superintendent of Dredges,
Department of Public Works,
Vancouver, B.C., June 19th, 1917.

Newspapers will not be paid for this advertisement if they insert it without authority from the Department.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENT NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 33 of the Local Improvement Act, public notice is hereby given that a Court of Revision will be held on Thursday, the 7th day of June, 1917, at the Council Chamber, City Hall, Victoria, B. C., at 3 p. m., for the hearing of complaints against the Special Assessment of lots abutting on the following work of local improvement, namely, Grading and paving with a light asphaltic pavement Davie Street between Fort Street and Leighton Road, and constructing curbs and boulevards on both sides of said street, also surface drain and necessary lateral connections to sewer, surface drain and water mains.

The Special Assessment Roll in respect of the said work of local improvement will be kept open for inspection at the office of the City Clerk at the City Hall, Victoria, B.C., for at least ten days next before the day appointed for the sitting of the said Court of Revision herein advertised.

WELLINGTON J. DOWLER,
C. M. C.

City Clerk's Office,
Victoria, B. C.,
May 26, 1917.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

IN THE MATTER of the Estate of Edgar Rayner, late of the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, deceased.

NOTICE is hereby given that all persons having any claims or demands against the late Edgar Rayner, who died on or about the 28th day of March, 1917, at the City of Victoria, in the Province of British Columbia, are required to send by post prepaid, or to deliver to the undersigned, solicitors herein for Robert Hemington Swinerton, Executor under the will of the said Edgar Rayner, their names and addresses and full particulars in writing of their claim, and statements of their accounts, and the nature of the securities, if any, held by them, duly verified by Statutory Declaration.

And take notice that at expiration of one month from the date hereof, the said Robert Hemington Swinerton, will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the persons entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have had notice, and that the said Robert Hemington Swinerton *will not be liable* for the said assets or any part thereof to any persons of whose claim he shall not then have received notice.

Dated at Victoria, B. C., this 19th day of May, 1917.

BARNARD, ROBERTSON,
HEISTERMAN & TAIT,
Tenth Floor, B. C. Permanent Loan Bldg., Victoria, B. C., Solicitors for the above named Executor.

May 19 June 9

OREGON & CALIFORNIA RAILROAD CO. GRANT LANDS

Title to same revested in United States *by Act of Congress* dated June 9, 1916. Two million three hundred thousand acres to be opened for homesteads and sale. Timber and Agricultural Lands. Containing some of best land left in United States. Now is the opportune time. Large map showing lands by sections and description of soil, climate, rainfall, elevations, etc., postpaid, One Dollar. Grant Lands Locating Co., Box 610, Portland, Oregon.

SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS

Coal mining rights of the Dominion in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the Northwest Territories and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years renewable for a further term of twenty-one years at an annual rental of $1 an acre. Not more than 2,560 acres will be leased to one applicant.

Application for a lease must be made by the applicant in person to the Agent or Sub-Agent of the District in which the rights applied for are situated.

In surveyed territory the land must be described by sections, or legal sub-divisions of sections, and in unsurveyed territory the tract applied for shall be staked out by the applicant himself.

Each application must be accompanied by a fee of $5, which will be refunded if the rights applied for are not available, but not otherwise. A royalty shall be paid on the merchantable output of the mine at the rate of five cents per ton.

The person operating the mine shall *furnish* the Agent with sworn returns accounting for the full quantity of merchantable coal mined and pay the royalty thereon. If the coal mining rights are not being operated, such returns should be furnished at least once a year.

The lease will include the coal mining rights only.

For full information application should be made to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Ottawa, or to any Agent or Sub-Agent of Dominion Lands.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy Minister of the Interior.

N.B.—*Unauthorized* publication of this advertisement will not be paid for.

April 2nd.

A wit's a feather, and a chief a rod;
An honest man's the noblest work of God. —Pope.

At The Street Corner

BY THE LOUNGER

O' wa'd some power the giftie gie us,
Tae see oorsels as ithers see us.

Do As I Say But Not As I Do

From all sections of the country comes the glad news that an active thrift campaign is in full progress. The big wigs are busy urging the common people to produce more and eat less. Those at the top of the social scale are genuinely alarmed lest those at the bottom should fail, at this important hour in the nation's history, in the discharge of their duty. Beauteous dames and society belles are vieing with each other in the commendable task of preaching the gospel of carefulness to the poor. With the same zest which they threw into whist drives and card parties, they now attend conservation circles and cultivation schools. They, of course, attend not to learn but to teach. The lecturer receives more publicity than the pupil and has a much better chance of prominence in the illustrated papers.

My thoughts were directed to these channels by daily observation of a garden on Rockland Avenue. In the spring of the year, when the duty of cultivation was being preached from a thousand platforms, a Chinaman was turned loose upon a beautiful lawn. Here, thought I, is at least one rich person who intends to do his bit in the increase of food-stuffs. I could have wished that he had turned in with a spade in person, instead of employing a Chinaman, but then, thought I, one mustn't expect too much at once. The Chinaman was a good workman and turned the sod well under. He was careful to remove weeds and to pound the sods into a fine loam. At length an expensive watering apparatus was brought into play and I waited patiently for what I full expected would be the finest crop of spuds ever produced in the vicinity of Rockland Avenue. Alas and Alas! In the course of a few weeks my surprise knew no bounds when I observed that a carpet of beautiful grass was once again spread over the expected potato patch. This Chinaman had been employed not to increase production but to gratify an idle whim of a pampered parasite. The original lawn was perfect to the eye of the casual observer but it wasn't good enough for this preacher of thrift, carefulness and frugality. The gentleman in question is, of course, an exemplary patriot. He thinks the empire is in danger and has attained remarkable adjectival fluency regarding crimes of Prussia and the woes of Belgium. He thinks that Canada should produce more and has had his words telegraphed to the farthermost bounds of Canada's wide domain. Yet the spacious and fertile grounds around his palatial residence are still devoted to lawns-de-luxe, and doubtless his table is just as extravagantly spread as in days gone by. His working philosophy is "Do as I say but not as I do."

Lounger.

A CATHOLIC VIEW OF SINGLE TAX

Document Presented to Mgr. Satolli by the Rev. Edward McGlynn, D.D., in December, 1892—And by His Direction Examined by a Committee of the Professors of the Catholic University, at Washington, D. C.—Declared to Contain Nothing Contrary to Catholic Teaching

All men are endowed by the law of nature with the right to life and to the pursuit of happiness and therefore with the right to exert their energies upon those natural bounties without which labor or life is impossible.

God has granted those natural bounties, that is to say, the earth, to mankind in general, so that no part of it has ben assigned to anyone in particular, and so that the limits of private possession have been left to be fixed by man's own industry and the laws of individual peoples.

But it is a necessary part of the liberty and dignity of man that man should own himself, always, of course, with perfect subjection to the moral law. Therefore, besides the common (equal) right to natural bounties, there must be by the law of nature private property and dominion in the fruits of industry or in which is produced by labor out of those natural bounties to which the individual may have legitimate access, that is, so far as he does not infringe the equal right of others or the common rights.

It is a chief function of civil government to maintain equally sacred these two natural rights.

It is lawful, and it is for the best interests of the individual and of the community and necessary for civilization that there should be a division as to the use and an undisturbed, permanent, exclusive private possession of portions of the natural bounties, or of the land; in fact, such exclusive possession is necessary to the ownership, use and enjoyment by the individual of the fruits and products of his industry.

But the organized community through civil government must always maintain the dominion over those natural bounties, as distinct from the products of private industry and from that private possession of the land which is necessary for their enjoyment. The maintenance of this dominion over the natural bounties is a primary function and duty of the organized community, in order to maintain the equal right of all men to labor for their living and for the pursuit of happiness, and therefore their equal right of access directly or indirectly to natural bounties. The assertion of this dominion by civil government is especially necessary because, with the very beginning of civil government and with the growth of civilization, there comes to the natural bounties, or the land, a peculiar and an increasing value distinct from and irrespective of the products of private industry existing therein. This value is not produced by the industry of the private possessor or proprietor but is produced by the existence of the community and grows with the growth and civilization of the community. It is therefore called unearned increment. It is this unearned increment that in cities gives to lands without any improvements so great a value. This value represents and measures the advantages and opportunities produced by the community, and men, when not permitted to acquire the absolute dominion over such lands, will willingly pay the value of this unearned increment in the form of rents, just as men, when not permitted to own other men, will willingly pay wages for desired services.

No sooner does the organized community, or state, arise, than it needs revenues. This need for revenues is small at first while population is sparse, industry rude, and the functions of the state few and simple, but with growth of population and advance of civilization the functions of the state increase and larger and larger revenues are needed. God is the author of society and has preordained civilization. The increasing need for public revenues with social advance being a natural God-ordained need, there must be a right way of raising them—some way that we can truly say is the way intended by God. It is clear that this right of raising public revenues must accord with the moral law or the law of justice. It must not conflict with individual rights, it must find its means in common right and common duties. By a beautiful providence, that may be truly called divine, since it is founded upon the nature of things and the nature of man, of which God is the creator, a fund, constantly increasing with the capacities and needs of society, is produced by the very growth of society itself, namely the rental value of the natural bounties of which society retains dominion. The justice and the duty of appropriating this fund to public uses is apparent in that it takes nothing from the private property of individuals except what they will pay willingly as an equivalent for a value produced by the community, which they are permitted to enjoy. The fund thus created is clearly by the law of justice a public fund, not merely because the value is a growth that comes to the natural bounties which God gave to the community in the beginning, but also, and much more, because it is a value produced by the community itself, so that this rental value belongs to the community by that best of titles, namely, producing, making, or creating.

To permit any portion of this public property to go into private pockets without a perfect equivalent being paid into the public treasury, would be an injustice to the community. Therefore the whole rental fund should be appropriated to common or public uses.

This rental tax will make compulsory the adequate utilization of natural bounties exactly in proportion to the growth of the community and of civilization, and will thus compel the possessors to employ labor, the demand for which will enable the laborer to obtain perfectly just wages. The rental tax fund growing by a natural law proportionately with the growth of civilization will thus be sufficient for public needs and capacities and therefore all taxes upon industry and upon the products of industry may and should be abolished. While the tax on land values promotes industry and therefore increases private wealth, taxes upon industry act like a fine or a punishment inflicted upon industry—they impede and restrain and finally strangle it.

In the desired condition of things land would be left in the private possession of individuals, with full liberty on their part to give, sell, or bequeath it, while the state would levy on it for public uses a tax that should equal the annual value of the land itself, irrespective of the use made of it or the improvements on it.

The only utility of private ownership and dominion of land, as distinguished from possession, is the evil utility of giving to the owners the power to reap where they have not sown, to take the products of the labor of others without giving them an equivalent—the power to impoverish and practically to reduce to a species of slavery the masses of men, who are compelled to pay to private owners the greater part of what they produce for permission to live and to labor in this world, when they would work upon the natural bounties for their own account, and the power, when men work for wages, to compel them to compete against one another for the opportunity to labor, and to compel them to consent to labor for the lowest possible wages—wages that are by no means the equivalent of the new value created by the work of the laborer, but are barely sufficient to maintain the laborer in a miserable existence, and even the power to deny to the laborer the opportunity to labor at all. This is an injustice against the equal right of all men to life and to the pursuit of happiness, a right based upon the brotherhood of man which is derived from the fatherhood of God. This is the injustice that we would abolish in order to abolish involuntary poverty.

That the appropriation of the rental value of land to public uses in the form of a tax would abolish the injustice which has just been described, and thus abolish involuntary poverty, is clear; since in such case no one would hold lands except for use, and the masses of men, having free access to unoccupied lands, would be able to exert their labor directly upon natural bounties and to enjoy the full fruits and products of their labors, beginning to pay a portion of the fruits of their industry to the public treasury only when, with the growth of the community and the extension to them of the benefits of civilization, there would come to their lands a rental value distinct from the value of the products of their industry, which value they would willingly pay as the exact equivalent of the new advantages coming to them from the community; and again in such case men would not be compelled to work for employers for wages less than absolutely just wages, namely, the equivalent of the new value created by their labor; since men surely would not consent to work for unjust wages when they could obtain perfectly just wages by working for themselves; and finally, since, when what belongs to the community shall have been given to the community, the only valuable things that men shall own as private property will be those things that have been produced by private industry, the boundless desires and capacities of civilized human nature for good things will always create a demand for these good things, namely, the products of labor—a demand always greater than the supply; and therefore for the labor that produces these good things there will always be a demand greater than the supply and the laborer will be able to command perfectly just wages—which are a perfect equivalent in the product of some other person's labor for the new value which his own labor produces.—Advt.

THE MACHINE GUNNER

By Patrick MacGill
Auther of "The Great Push"

He said that his name was Brown and nobody believed him. But his mates never said to his face that he was not telling the truth. In fact, the men of the machine gun team were afraid of him. He was a queer customer. In appearance he was an old man, bald and wrinkled, one of those who could go up to a recruiting office and say, "My age is not forty-one. Having no certificate of my birth you must take my word for it. I may look old but one's years can never be judged by wrinkles. Some people never grow old and I am one of them." But as Brown was a very modest man he, of course, never spoke like that.

He was born in London; the only time he ever left there was when he came to France. So he said, but again none believed this. He knew quite a smattering of languages; he spoke German and French, also Spanish. The latter he spoke as it is spoken in South America. So Brown's officer said; and this officer had travelled about in most places of the world. On one occasion the battalion to which the man was attached relieved a Canadian regiment and some of the English soldiers entered into conversation with the men who were going out. Brown was heard speaking to one of them and asking questions about a lumber camp situated somewhere near the foot of the Rockies.

"You know that place, then?" an officer said to Brown afterwards.

"Yes, sir," Brown replied. "I read about it in the papers."

He rolled cigarettes with a cunning hand and he chewed tobacco as if to the manner born. He was a splendid soldier, highly intelligent and in a stiff corner one of the best mates a man could have. In fact, he was greatly respected, although he made very few comrades. He feared neither God or man and was never so happy as when under fire. In the midst of the most violent cannonade he was calm and unperturbed. Nothing was too arduous for him; there was nothing that he would not attempt. The unknown and hazardous always fascinated him, and when fighting his face always gave his mates the impression that he had become a soldier merely for the fixed purpose of killing. He was in the machine gun team, and loved his weapon, probably because the machine gun is one of the most effective death-dealing instruments of war.

A few days ago, in the ebb and flow of the fighting around Guemappe, his party found themselves in an isolated post and all but surrounded by the enemy. One man fell, and then another, and finally nobody was left save Brown and his officer.

"We've got to stick it," said the officer. "It's damned stiff but all the same!!" . . . .

Brown shrugged his shoulders and let the machine gun rip. He had no cover and seemed to be quite indifferent to danger. He was in his proper element and found the situation quite to his liking. Suddenly the officer gave a strangled cry, and dropped to earth.

"Clear out of it, Brown," he gasped. "It's no good! . . ."

Brown fixed a fresh cartridge belt to his weapon and turned his gun half right on the Germans who were attempting an encircling movement. One of Brown's mates was lying on the ground, wounded and conscious.

"The officer told you to retire," he said, looking up at the old man. "Did you not hear that?"

"I didn't hear it," Brown replied, his voice rising above the clatter of the gun.

When the Scotch charged across the machine gun emplacement ten minutes later they found Brown still at his work, a wound in his right shoulder and his left foot badly shattered. When the stretcher bearers came up they carried him back to the dressing station. There he spoke to his officer who had also been carried in.

"You were still at your post when the Scotch came along, I hear," said the officer with a smile. "But what about the order I gave you to retire?"

"I didn't hear it, sir," said Brown. "There are times when I get very deaf. It's a failing of mine."

"What's the reason for this failing?" asked the officer.

"Buenos Aires, South America," said Brown. His voice came in short gasps and he was in great pain. "At the docks . . . The German sailors go about in gangs . . . If you fall foul with them it's . . . Knife you in the dark . . . Once they . . . me. . ."

When the M. O. came round he found Brown unconscious. On the man's back there were a number of old scars which looked as if they had been made by a sharp instrument.

"By a knife probably," said the M. O.

Poet—"You said the other day in your paper that poverty is not a crime."

Editor—"Well?"

Poet—"And yet you decline my verses simply because you say they are poor."

• • •

Starting It Off

Struggling Author (who has just read his latest story to his wife)—"There! That's the best thing I ever did."

His Wife—"Yes, dear. What magazine shall you send it to first?"

• • •

"How would you classify a telephone girl?" asked the old fogey. "Is hers a business or a profession?"

"Neither," replied his friend. "It's a calling."

The Ultimate Verdict

¶ Taken in the aggregate Dunlop Automobile Tires—"Traction," "Special"—uniformly give the highest average of general satisfaction.

A. 74

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Economical, Absolutely Sanitary

Collegiate School

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Private Day and Boarding School For Boys
SMALL CLASSES—INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION
Summer Term Commences Monday, April 23rd
PRINCIPAL - - - A. D. MUSKETT, ESQ.
For Prospectus, giving full particulars, apply to the Principal

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is fully realized in travelling on the lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway. By its lines can be reached all points in Canada and the United States.

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(Hayward's, Ltd.)

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When necessity requires you to have the services of an embalmer or funeral conductor

Phone 2235, 2236, 2237 or 2238

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PUBLIC MARKET

STALL 9

NEW METHOD LAUNDRY

LIMITED

"QUALITY LAUNDERERS"

1015-1017 North Park Street
Phone 2300.

SOTTO VOCE

BY THE HORNET

That Mayor Todd is again tackling the delinquent tax problem.

That his latest scheme promises well, but . . . .

That some civic employees will be glad when the city has some money *at the bank.*

That salaries are low and living high and families have a tendency to increase.

That Public Library officials are woefully underpaid.

That teachers are in the same fix.

That the out-door staff are getting anxious at the trend of things.

That the employees will therefore support a tax sale with unanimity.

That anti-conscriptionists are angry with Hornet.

That some persons are angry with them.

That we must all bear patiently with one another.

That the advertisement of the William Davies Co., Ltd., indicates that the Ottawa Government has employed an incompetent.

That the report of the Commissioner indicates that the William Davies Company is a public menace.

That the whole matter should be cleared up speedily.

That he Huns are still able to deliver stupendous blows.

That Russia is feeling their force with a vengeance.

That France is only just able to hold her own.

That Britain is bruised and bleeding but still going strong.

That it's America's turn to fill the gaps in the fighting ranks of the Allies.

That Dominion-wide prohibition has been killed by Sir Robert Borden.

That certain local politicians of both sexes will now have their chance to prove that their provincial zeal was not inspired by partisan considerations.

That "baiting Borden" should now take the place of "baiting Brewster.

That the Winnipeg Liberal Convention has shown scant respect for British Columbia Liberalism.

That no invitation has been extended to send delegates to the Convention.

That British Columbia may take a line of its own.

That R. W. Perry is looking for the Conservative Party nomination in the federal field.

That at least one honourably discharged returned soldier from this District is being recalled for duty.

That this step indicates a great shortage of men.

That nevertheless men who have done their bit should be allowed to remain.

That the man in question has a large family.

That he was severely wounded.

That his wife and family should be spared the shock of another tragic parting.

That single-men first should be the motto.

That those who have served should be released from further duty.

That British Columbia is about to float another loan.

That it should be offered locally in denominations of $100 so that small investors may have a chance.

That at least some of it should be so offered.

That all provincial employees should be required to accept twenty-five per cent of their salaries in the new bonds.

That provincial salaries are being cut to the bone and provincial efficiency is thereby endangered.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Week invites letters from its readers on all subjects of public interest. Letters need not be signed by the writer but a nom de plume may be used for publication, and they must be accompanied in every case by the name and address of the writer as a guarantee of good faith. This will be treated by the Editor entirely in confidence. The Editor also reserves the right to withhold publication of any letter without having to give a reason for so doing.

THE RETURNED SOLDIER

To the Editor:—

Any legislative attempt to secure the opportunity of employment for our returned soldiers which does not at the same time aim at removing the existing causes of unemployment can result in no permanent good.

At the best it will only be benefitting the returned hero, by placing at a disadvantage others who possibly for the best of reasons did not or could not enlist, and will impart to his welcome home a very doubtful flavor.

A country that is worth fighting for, should be made worth living in (after the fighting is over) for all, *whether for soldiers* now absent, present citizens, or future settlers. There is no natural reason for poverty or even the eternal grind.

There is only one true method of dealing with the returned soldier problem, so called, which can at the same time prove beneficial to the whole community of this or any other Province, and that is a policy of honestly removing all artificial barriers that now hamper and restrain trade and industry, and securing the freest possible access to the land for all who will use it, at the same time making it impossible for anyone to withhold its use from the community. Such a policy secures nature's minimum wage to all who will exploit her, with the absolute assurance that every additional man coming to the country will be an added source of wealth to all.

Economic freedom is an absolutely essential condition to a successful permanent solution of the problem of unemployment in any form, and this condition can never be secured except existing causes of unemployment be first removed. Unless this is done, any attempt to provide or create opportunity for labor, can only be a palliative at best, and must be ultimately futile.

Idle land means idle men. The system which either prevents or limits the use of land, especially in or near cities, and on lines of communication, must be penalized. A tax on all land, rigorously enforced, according to its value and sufficient in amount to compel either its use or release, would stimulate industry and provide abund*ant and increasing revenue for all* essential and ordinary purposes.

A tax on land is the only tax that cannot be passed on, because it becomes unprofitable to hold land out of use, and those who will not use it must sooner or later release it to those who will. When it is made unprofitable to withhold land from use, land will become cheap. Cheap land means dear men, just as now dear land means cheap men. Under present conditions our country's manhood becomes a burden and a problem.

Unlock the land and a healthy demand and opportunity for labor is at once created. Restore the natural order of things, let nature's minimum wage assert itself, and so long as God gives the increase, the spectre of want, the nightmare of unemployment and the eternal grind with its miserable reward will soon disappear from our midst. No one will long consent to starve in our cities, when they can live in plenty on the land with less effort. The best and most accessible land would be developed first and a short period of adjustment would see established a permanent healthy demand for labor at its full economic value.

All taxes on commodities or raw material whether for revenue or protective are unfair, irritating, costly to collect, hamper trade and restrict employment. They enable the few to get rich by legislation at the expense of the many, by making monopolies and combines possible. They raise the cost of living, thereby falling on those ultimately whom they do not benefit.

Untax all personal effort and the products of labor, and tax all undeveloped agricultural, mining and building land according to the value it would have if cultivated, mined or built on.

Only a policy which has for its object the gradual freeing of the trade of the Province in its production and distribution, and at the same time aims to derive its revenue from land values (the only source whose supply increases with the demand) can provide a true and permanent solution to the problem of unemployment in this or any country. Only such a policy can form a sure foundation on which to base legislation which seeks to prepare for the home coming of the men who have so nobly risked their lives, and at the same time provide a sure and certain hope for the welfare of all other desirable future citizens who may be yet unborn or induced to seek a home in this Province.

As a student of economics I have no faith in any of the suggested colonization schemes as a solution for the returned soldier problem. By donning the khaki a man does not change his individuality or lose his former tastes, or his ambitions for self and family. We cannot discharge the national obligation even to those who return to us physically sound, by any *scientific method of dumping them on* the the land, like a special breed of prize cattle.

Other suggestions such as a policy of filling all Government, Municipal, and semi-public positions with returned soldiers, besides being a piece of corporate folly would spell injustice and misfortune to others and would be offering a gratuitous insult to our returned heroes.

A man does not cease to be a hero when he takes off the king's uniform, and a hero does not want another man's job even though offered as a tribute by a grateful nation.

Let him realise on his return, that while he has been fighting evil abroad, others have been attacking the evils at home. Let him find a welcome awaiting him wherever he chooses to turn among his own people, and that what he has fought to protect is indeed a country of free institutions and a goodly heritage for his children.

This will be a worthier and more lasting reward than any form of special treatment which inevitably means a burden to others and possibly a disadvantage to his own offspring.

H. H. HOLLINS.

AT THE "EXAMS"

The following are amusing answers given by pupils at public school examinations across the line, and which are vouched for as of untampered coloring:

The function of the stomach is to hold up the petticoat.

A mountain range is a large-sized cook stove.

If it were not for the fish in the lakes the water would overflow and destroy the forests, for fish drink a great deal of water.

Two French explorers of the Mississippi Valley were Romeo and Juliet.

Longfellow was born in Portland, Me., while his parents were traveling in Europe.

The two chief provisions of the Mayflower compact were salt pork and beans.

The feminine gender of fryer is toastress.

The fish go up the river to spoon.

Mohammed was the son of Moses.

Monkeys eat bananas, and the higher class of monkeys are getting to look like men.

There were no Christians among the early gentiles, they were mostly lawyers.

George Washington married Martha Curtis, and in due time became father of his country.

A mountain pass is a pass given by the railroads to their employees so that they can spend their vacation *in the mountains.*

Combustion is when the wild cucumber pods get dry and burst.

The earth is an absolete spheroid.

Typhoid can be prevented by forcination.

To resuscitate from drowning, grasp the arms of the deceased. If he don't come to in two or three hours, he won't come to at all.

I saw two clouds at morning,
Tinged with the rising sun;
And in the dawn they floated on,
And mingled into one."—Brainard.

* * *

Our brains are seventy-year clocks. The angel of life winds them up once for all, then closes the case, and gives the key into the hand of the Angel of the Resurrection.—Holmes.

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Here's to our wives who fill our lives
With little bees and honey!
They break life's shocks,
They mend our socks,
But don't they spend the money!

* * *

Here's to the chaperon,
May she learn from Cupid
Just enough blindness
To be sweetly stupid.

* * *

After man came woman, and she has been after him ever since.

* * *

The pretty girl that gets a kiss
And goes and tells her mother,
Does a very foolish thing—
And don't deserve another.

* * *

To Canada!

Here's to a maid of the north—
And a maiden of worth,
A maid of the wheat fields and pine;
On her cheeks there is health,
In her hands there is wealth
Of the river and forest and mine.

* * *

A little health, a little wealth,
A little house and freedom,
With some few friends
For certain ends,
But little cause to need 'em.

* * *

Old nature swears the lovely dears,
Her noblest works she classes, O;
Her 'prentise hand she tried on man
And then she made the lasses, O!

* * *

Don't worry about the future,
The present is all thou hast,
The future will soon be present,
And the present will soon be past.

* * *

From barest rock to bleakest shore,
Where farthest sail unfurls,
That stars and stripes are streaming o'er,—
God bless our Yankee girls!

* * *

Here's long life to the mothers-in-law,
With all her freaks and capers,
For without our "dear old ma,"
What would become of the comic papers?

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