THE SURREY GAZETTE

The official paper for Surrey Municipality, Province of British Columbia.

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FACE THE TRUTH;-- WE ARE AT WAR.
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION IMPERATIVE

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

Food Production—Labor Shortage—Chinese Question.

* * *

Assuming that the people of Canada honestly wish to win the war it follows that they must concentrate on three main issues—men, food and ships. At last they have provided the means to get driblets of men. This is insufficient. Every available fighting man, single or married, should now be in training, if not actually called up. Men are needed en masse at once.

Provincial Government Has Penalized B. C. Farmers.

* *

For the past three years the farmer has been appealed to for greater production. A large section of Canadian farmers have latterly been assisted by a bonus towards this end, namely the fixing of the price on wheat. B. C. farmers are included in another section which has not only been neglected by Dominion and Provincial governments, but a portion of which has actually been penalizzed by the latter. All B. C. farms have been affected by labor shortage.

In order to provide material for ships the lumber mills of B. C. must be manned. There should be more mills and more shipyards but lack of labor bars this development and robs the Allies of needed transportation facilities.

It will thus be seen that in order to increase our output of foodstuffs and of shipping labor must be secured from somewhere. There are two sources of supply. One is the labor which is in the country; the other is in imported labor.

Conscription of Labor, Industries and Brains.

* * *

How are we to go about this phase of national organization to win the war? There is a grain of hope in a dispatch from Ottawa (Jan. 8) that "the government contemplates a new and really thorough national registration service with a view to determining the labor resources of Canada and getting adequate data on which to base a comprehensive plan for mobilizing Canada's men and women power for essential war industries."

This, one hopes, may mean that the available labor in the country is to be conscripted and directed into the channels where it will best help the cause. Conscription should not halt at the able bodies of soldiers. It should extend not only to the worker but to the controllers and owners of all Canadian industries.

Lord Shaughnessy deprecates government control of Canadian railways. He should be conscripted and placed at the head of the combined Canadian lines, given a free hand and told to control the national railways with the economy and efficiency he claims for the C. P. R. That is the conscription of brains for which Britain finds a precedent.

We Are At War.

"WAR."
A Great Socialistic Influence.

Some were tall and some were short; some were old and some were young; one was an officer and one was a private; one was a pauper without a penny and another was a great prince. But the same drab khaki clothed them all, and the same look of high resolve was stamped on their faces, stern and set. From all the ends of the earth they had come. Knowing nothing of ranks, nationalities or creeds, war had brought them together, making them as one.—(A scene in a ruined chateau in Flanders.)

"WAR."
The Great Leveler.

"We are all brothers here tonight. War has done this for us, too. Out of the East, up from the West, Shintoist, Buddhist, Catholic, Jew, from all the the ends of the earth, of all sects, of all nationalities, war, the great leveler, has brought us here and made us one."—(From "The Firing Line in Flanders.")

"WAR."
Two Sides of the Picture.

"People would have us believe that war is terrible. It is. That is destroys everything it touches and leaves desolation in the trail of its bloody wings. It does. But that is only one side of the picture. War does more than that. It makes the weak strong. It makes the drunkard sober. It turns cowards into brave men."—(Extract from a speech at the battle-front.)

Efficient national direction of labor now in Canada would close three-fourths of the stores and offices in the country. This may sound revolutionary but it would at least bring home to everyone that we are at war. It would partially, if not wholly, solve the present shortage. There are sources of labor fit for farm or factory which today are unorganized and unexploited. The enemy alien, the neutral, the women, the high school students, the Oriental now in the country.

There is this way of meeting the need. The alternative is to import labor. Britain and France first organized their home supply of workers, then turned to Africa and China for hordes of additional helpers. The situation in Canada is different in one important essential. The productive possibilities of France and England in respect to food and timber are limited. In Canada they are practically unlimited. Thus, if Canada is to do her utmost, not only must all her present available labor be diverted and directed but she must import all the outside labor there is available.

A Long War.

Let the plea that "the war may be over before long" be here disposed of. Sir Eric Geddes has recently told the American people to "give up hoping that this can be a short war. Plan and provide for an ever-receding duration of AT LEAST two years more." The British government's occupation of Northern France is as though it was there to stay thirty years or longer.

"Labor Battalions."

With respect to the proposals to introduce indentured Chinese labor into Canada. On the one hand there is the plan to put 1,000,000 Chinese on additional wheat production.

Following out the policy of conscription of everything, brains, men, mills, forests, lands, millions of acres now lying idle on the prairies might be converted into wheat fields. The Chinese could be kept in battalions, controlled and directed by men familiar with them. When not cultivating land they might erect buildings. In winter they could be used for lumbering or other necessary work, provided always that they be kept together in large bodies and under strict discipline.

Returned Soldiers.

In the work of supervision there could be found employment for thousands of returned soldiers. The areas thus brought under cultivation would not only provide millions of additional bushels of feedstuffs for export, but they would be prepared for immediate settlement after or during the war. This settlement in turn would provide abundant demand for all available skilled white labor.

THE
SURREY GAZETTE

CHARLES E. SANDS, Editor and Owner.
White Rock, B. C.

SURREY'S WARTIME COUNCIL.

Municipal matters are subordinate to national affairs and, as financial conditions allow us only a limited amount of linotype reading matter, a number of local news notes are omitted from this issue.

One municipal item, however, may be touched on, especially as it is a wartime suggestion.

In other municipalities the road-work report for the year is made up and handed in by the municipal engineer and his report is read at the annual ratepayers' meeting.

The suggestion that is put forward for Surrey's wartime reeve and council follows upon the same lines.

Instead of each individual councillor endeavoring to wrestle with the road problems of his separate ward, why not form a committee with the municipal engineer as chief adviser and make a comprehensive survey of the most important road needs of the whole municipality—irrespective of main section lines or subdivision road lines, and then make the appropriations accordingly.

It cannot be denied that, in the past, a vast amount of useless and unnecessary roadwork has been done at the instance of individual councillors.

The work commenced by one councillor has been neglected by his successor; road appropriations have been made for the convenience of perhaps one settler, whilst roadwork of vital importance to a larger section of settlers has been absolutely neglected.

Slashing and preliminary work on various section line road limits has been done by individual councillors and then left to grow wild again.

Thickly settled portions of the municipality have been ignored and neglected because they happened to be located on subdivision lines, whilst useless and expensive work has been done on section and half section lines where there were few, if any, settlers.

It is believed that if the above suggestion of a Road Committee with the municipal Engineer as consulting advisor, were to take the road problem up along these lines a large amount of trouble and expense would be obviated.

* *

FINAL RESULTS.

Surrey's Municipal Election.

Final figures in Wards One and Five return both the old councillors for these wards, George F. Triggs and George Radford, respectively. The figures are: Ward One, G. F. Triggs, 47; Luke Moore, 40, and Chas. Woods, 19; and Ward Five, Geo. Radford, 114, and Chas. R. Feedham, 28. Councillor R. D. Mackenzie was elected to serve as police commissioner for two years with a vote of 154, while D. S. Barton will act for one year, having secured 105 votes. The members of the Surrey council and school board who went in by acclamation are: Reeve T. J. Sullivan; Councillors Edward King, Jos. T. Brown, R. D. Mackenzie; and Trustee Steve Williams, Ben Stevenson and William Hugh.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

Food Production—Labor Shortage—Chinese Question.

(Abridged from The Leader.)

Continued from page 1

China Our Ally.

* * *

The view that all Chinese are to be judged by the "green" variety is provincial. Among her 400,000,000 souls there are brains as keen, hands as trained as there are in Canada. Thousands of skilled agriculturists could be recruited from this Oriental ally. Such a course would create no precedent. The operation of the Witwatersrand mines, the construction of the Panama canal, the present employment of Chinese in Europe, emphasize the suitability of the Chinese to any kind of labor where multitudes are necessary.

The fear that once here, the Chinese would be hard to get rid of, is unfounded, provided the government is honest. To set all fears at rest on this score the government might guarantee to pay to the organized labor or other interests at present opposed to the plan, $10,000 a head for every Chinaman not returned on the expiry of his term of service.

This suggestion is made, not at the dictation of any large corporation, mill, railway or otherwise, but as an honest contribution towards solving urgent national needs, present and to come. We favor the conscription of the "big interests" as well as labor.

Food Supply Must Be Increased.

This is certain. Food supply must be increased; provision must be made for the returned and returning soldier; demand must be created for the employment of skilled labor after the war. The Union government may have a better scheme to meet these requirements. In the meantime this suggestion deserves consideration by all independent minds. Flat condemnation does not remove the causes which resulted in its being propounded.

The Exempted Farmer.

* *

The man who is exempted from active war service in order that he may farm his land is morally bound to work as hard and as long on production as is his brother who is absolutely bound to do his share in the fighting line. Not only the exempted farmers, but all farmers and their farms should be placed under control, supervision and direction. Volunteer methods of farm organization have failed. The present affords a grand opportunity for a compulsory organization which would prove the salvation of the industry.

If the soldier and the farmer should be subjected to discipline and direction why should not all the other classes in the community be similarly enlisted, indentured or conscripted, for the winning of the war?

This should be done in B. C. before any indentured Chinese labor be scattered over the province. As time is the essential in war and as ships must be secured the suggestion that Chinese shipbuilders be brought to B. C. and segregated and supervised by competent white builders has much to commend it.

Empire Struggling for Life.

* *

In considering the subject of Asiatic labor, "enlisted" or "indentured" as one chooses to call it, it is necessary to put aside all personal prejudices and to realize that the present desperate situation calls for commensurate remedies. As part of an Empire struggling for life we cannot afford to play the "dog in the manger" and, playing that part, steer straight for bankruptcy.

Face the Truth.

We have the raw material, the resources vital to the Allies and the winning of the war. Are they to be allowed to lie idle, are women and children to be allowed to starve in Europe, is Germany to be aided rather than opposed because we will not face the truth that we personally are at war, and that to win we must not only place the labor, capital and brains we have where they can best help but, in order to develop our illimitable potentialities, we must import more labor and thus lay the foundation for unprecedented progress after the war?

The Sacrifice for Us.

Last week British casualties totalled 24,979 officers and men, divided as follows:—Killed or wounded: officers, 117; men, 5,159. Wounded or missing: officers, 304; men, 19,409. This shows only a part of the sacrifice which is being made for us. Is any effort too great for us at home?

* *

CARD OF THANKS.

Mrs. J. C. Wicks, of White Rock, extends her sincere appreciation of the kindness and sympathy shown by friends and neighbors since the sad news was received from the battle-front of the wounding and death of her late husband, Cpl. J. C. Wicks, 47th Battalion C. E. F.

MUST PRODUCE FOOD.

Every person who can possibly produce food must do so, no matter how small his or her contribution may be. Those who cannot produce food can, at least, conserve it. The utmost economy is imperative. The situation today is critical and the world is rapidly approaching that condition when price will not be the most important question, but when even the people of Canada may be glad to eat any food which they can obtain.

The successful prosecution of the war by the Allies will depnd to a very large extent upon the extent of the food production and food conservation this year by the people of North America.

* * *

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—By Morris W. Grant, White Rock.

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German and Swedish spoken. Address: 336 Boston Block, Minneapolis, Minn.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

At the annual meeting of the Strawberry Hill Women's Institute the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. A. Jack; vice-president, Mrs. Charles Morley; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. M. Huntley, and director for the year 1918, Mrs. E. N. Kilman. The financial report showed that the total receipts for the past year amounted to $298.73, while disbursements were $292.65, leaving a balance of $6.08.

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As a result of the order in council placing mill feed stuffs under embargo for export, except under licence from the Food Controller, no less than 6,640 tons of bran and shorts intended for the United States have been diverted for the use of Canadian farmers.

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You can cut down the cost of stump blasting by using Giant Stumping Powder.

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Ar. Vancouver.....	10.15 a.m.	11.15 a.m.	5.25 p.m.	7.35 p.m.	9.25 p.m.

EASTBOUND.

	For Chilliwack			For Jardine only	
				No. 450 daily Fri. and Sun.	Extra Sat. only
	No. 2	No. 4	No. 8		
Lv. Cloverdale.....	10.00 a.m.	2.17 p.m.	6.37 p.m.	7.55 a.m.	5.35 p.m.
Ar. Chilliwack.....	12.15 noon	4.20 p.m.	8.40 p.m.		

On Friday, No. 450 and No. 451 are operated as market specials as far as Mount Lehman, leaving Vancouver at 5.00 a.m. and New Westminster at 6.20 a.m., returning leave Mount Lehman at 7.30 a.m.

On Sunday, No. 450 leaves Vancouver and New Westminster 20 minutes later than on weekdays.

Saturday evening Owl Special leaves Vancouver at 11.25 p.m. and New Westminster at 12.05 midnight.

Trains Nos. 3 and 7 arriving at Vancouver at 11.15 a.m. and 9.25 p.m., and Nos. 2 and 8 leaving Vancouver at 8.30 a.m. and 5.10 p.m. are operated through, without change at New Westminster.

Subject to change without notice.

Miss Livingston, of Murrayville, and Mrs. Ralston, of Vancouver, were recent visitors to White Rock as guests of their relatives, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Smith.

TO ADVERTISERS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

Until further notice The Surrey Gazette will go to press on the Thursday morning of each week. All change of advertisements, news notes or fresh "copy" of any kind should reach this office by the Wednesday morning at latest.

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SYNOPSIS OF COAL MINING REGULATIONS.

Coal mining rights of the Dominion, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the Yukon Territory, the North-West Territories and in a portion of the Province of British Columbia, may be leased for a term of twenty-one years renewal 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 subdivisions 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, rescinded by Chap. 27 of 4-5 George V. assented to 12th June, 1914.

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—82575.

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