

OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS BOYS MUST BE FAIRLY TREATED

Eloquent Appeal by Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith on Behalf of the Patriotic Fund—Should be Loyal Support by All Good Citizens—All Patriotic Organizations Should Be Upheld

The War and the Patriotic Spirit was the subject of Dr. W. H. Smith's sermon in St. Paul's Church on Sunday evening. He began by referring to the moral and spiritual ideals which played such a prominent part in the conduct of the wars of the Israelites, as set forth in the Mosaic legislation. The whole outlook was so different from that of the surrounding nations that could only be explained by the presence of the Spirit of God. Special reference was made to the attitude of David, who insisted that after the victory the men who stayed by the staff should share equally with those who won the battle. It was the recognition of the social unity of the nation, based upon the principle that the strong should help the weak.

The Empire is now engaged in its greatest struggle. Canada is taking up its great task. Within two weeks of the declaration of war 33,000 men had enlisted and soon assembled at Valcartier. Within the next ten months 120,000 men had enlisted. Already almost a quarter of a million had enlisted and the call has been issued for half a million. Many of these men have given up good positions and salaries to serve the Empire and the cause of righteousness. But many are men on small salaries. All leave their dear ones at home. The financial side is one which must be adequately faced. Of the first contingent it was found that over forty per cent. had persons depending on them. The pay of the private is only \$1.10 per day. A portion of this is needed for his daily comfort, which leaves only a small part which can be sent home. The Government has granted a separation allowance of \$20 per month. Notwithstanding this allowance many cases occur where special provision must be made to meet the need.

MEETING OF EMERGENCY.

The Patriotic Fund is Canada's method of meeting the emergency. At first the cases were dealt with locally. This was unsatisfactory, as there was overlapping and also neglect. Again the principle of local support was weak in this respect, that the greater the enlistment the larger the sum required for support, while the smaller the enlistment the smaller financial obligation. To meet the Canadian situation a central committee was formed, with the Governor General as chairman, the Minister of Finance as treasurer and Sir Herbert Ames as honorary secretary. The principle adopted is the true basis of equality, the strong assisting the weak. Already \$6,000,000 has been contributed. At present 25,000 families with over 80,000 persons are being helped. It required over \$400,000 per month to meet the cases. Great economy of administration has been exercised, so that the interest on deposits has paid all expenses and the money subscribed has reached the needy intact. The work is done by a local committee, which gives ungrudging attention to each case. It is a great task and is being faced in an admirable spirit.

OBJECT OF THE FUND.

It is necessary to clearly understand the principle at stake. Some have spoken of the Fund as a charitable one. Such a thought misses the very heart and spirit of it. The fund has been provided to meet the needs of those depending upon the soldier, who would otherwise suffer. If the soldier were fighting for a personal or individual object and thereby neglecting to support his family, there would be ground for such a criticism. But the fact is that the soldier is fighting for the Empire, which means for Canada, and that includes every interest. He fights for the business interests and the home interests of every one, those who go and those who stay at home. His devotion in going places everyone under a deep debt not only of gratitude, but of obligation to care for his interests when he is caring for our interests. The strong gift of his strength to the Empire is his most generous contribution to society, and he places everyone at home under a corresponding obligation. The Fund is not charitable, but an expression of appreciation, of social fair play, however inadequate, and of social brotherhood. The soldier risks all. His widowed mother, wife and family assume the dangers and the risk of his going. It may mean he is killed or crippled for life, or only a small pension. This is the problem from the standpoint of the soldier and his dependents. The idea that the Fund is charity under such conditions is based upon utter misconception of the national obligation. Instead of being charity, it is only right, fair and worthy, and self-respecting in spirit, although very inadequate in amount when the full sacrifice is recognized.

DESERVING OF SUPPORT.

The general public ought to become familiar with this Fund. Every citizen ought to be deeply interested and loyally support it. The defects of the early organization are being eliminated and the scheme is gradually being perfected. It is difficult to make regulations to cover the multitude of cases to the satisfaction of all. Criticisms are heard. Some claim the rules are too generous. When it is remembered that it is only for the needy and that the average per family has been less than \$20 per month and less in the East than in the West, and also that the living conditions have become harder since the war, it is difficult to understand the justice of this criticism. It should perhaps be said that the criticism comes from those who are not facing similar conditions. Probably some personal experience would lead to a revision of the criticism. Again, it is urged that some families are much better off on account of it than before the soldier enlisted. This is true, and it ought to be a ground for thanksgiving rather than for criticism of the fund. Before enlisting the man was not providing properly for his family. After enlisting he measures up to the standard of a good soldier. His family gets the benefit of his increased value to society. Even if there are cases where the larger income is not wisely used, it is only a matter of fair dealing with the soldier that his country treat him as a good soldier, on an equality with other good soldiers. Any misuse of the fund must be placed to the individual and not to the Fund, which seeks to treat its representatives at the front with a worthy spirit.

TEST OF CITIZENSHIP.

In seeking to do our part in this war, it is always necessary to remember the individual men who do our work. Our attitude to this fund is a matter of enlightened citizenship. If there is any better method it ought to be made public. Until there is outlined some better way, we ought to support this Fund. It is a test of our national citizenship, our social, moral and spiritual ideals. It is an expression of our ideals of brotherhood. What we do will react upon ourselves and the Empire. If we loyally stand by our men it will build up a national ideal and spirit of supreme value as an expression of real democracy. If we fail our higher ideals will perish and our contribution to the world's higher life very seriously discounted. To make democracy a world ideal we must live it as a superior life to legal and military compulsion.

Throughout this year keep in mind our soldiers. Give your loyal support to the Red Cross work, the work of the Daughters of the Empire, to all agencies which minister comfort, help or hope to our men or their families. It will mean great sacrifices on our part, but these are small compared with the sacrifices the men are making on our behalf. When the war is over it will be a source of satisfaction to meet our men after having been loyal to their interests when they fought for the higher things of our common civilization and the Kingdom of God.

HONORARY COLONELS CAUSE SHORTAGE OF KHAKI SUPPLY

Number Has Increased Very Rapidly Under Sir Sam's Regime—For Overseas Service Only—A Tribute to Lieut. "Foghorn" McDonald Who Rose From the Ranks.

(By H. F. Gadsby.)

OTTAWA, Dec. 30.—"Foghorn" Macdonald, so named because he has a voice which rises above the roar of battle, has been fighting in Flanders ever since the war started. Foghorn, who is known from Alaska to Cripple Creek and back again as a man with a heart as big as his voice, just naturally couldn't keep out of that fight. He is a Glangarry Macdonald, and the Macdonalds were never backward at that sort of thing. So though he had been a rich man in his time, or rather from time to time, as gold miners usually are, he didn't wait for a commission, but went as a private. He went with the first draft of the first contingent—in fact he couldn't get away fast enough.

Of course Neil Macdonald—that's "Foghorn's" real name—hadn't been drilling very long before they discovered that he had the makings, and they promptly promoted him corporal. Also he wasn't long on the firing line before they realized that he possessed the fifty-seven varieties of courage, from two o'clock in the morning kind to the day after to-morrow, and also a gift of leadership, which couldn't be allowed to go to waste. Besides, he had a fund of humor, and a knack of rollicking anecdote which brightened the lives of his trench comrades and made him as welcome as a letter from home. So they made him a sergeant because he was brave and blithe when the bullets were flying, gave him his step up on sheer merit, and "Foghorn" felt correspondingly honored. But there his career stopped for a long time. Sergeant he was, but he couldn't seem to fly any higher. Young Captain Hughes, whose father was Minister of Militia, had shot up to be a Brigadier General in no time, but Private Neil Macdonald, who had no pull, and was working his way up under fire, had a longer journey to go.

A LIEUTENANT NOW.

However, it's a long road that has no turning, and presently, pull or no pull, they had to make "Foghorn" a lieutenant. They made him lieutenant because he had earned it, and the promotion didn't come from Ottawa either, but from the General on the field, so you may be sure it was the real thing.

The battlefield had come to understand that "Foghorn" must have a job more in keeping with that tremendous bass voice of his, a voice that made the German cannon hoarse trying to shout it down. So it's Lieutenant Foghorn Macdonald now, and if you like you may compare this big, upstanding, broad-chested, thunder voice Macdonald from Glangarry, who fought his way up with his own strong right arm, with the pale little lieutenants you see around you. The little lieutenants with spindly legs and misplaced eyebrows for moustaches, who don't know anything about soldiering except that they would like to be lieutenants, and who coax father to get it for them, and who will be taken off the job anyway when they get to Shorncliffe, and be replaced by real officers. Perhaps you may meet some of these little lieutenants, not dry behind the ears yet—they're everywhere; you can hardly miss them—and when you do see one, stand him up in your mind beside that stalwart six-footer Lieut. Foghorn Macdonald, hero of as many battles as he has fingers and toes, and ask yourself how he looks.

HAS NO UNIFORM.

Lieutenant Foghorn Macdonald wrote home to one of his Glangarry friends the other day and he had never a complaint to make about the long time he had been kept waiting, but he did say this: "I'm an officer now, but I can't get any uniform." The lieutenant didn't seem to understand why he had to go without the clothes of his rank. When he sees this article, as he may, for I am instructed by a captain in Belgium that some of these distant scribes find their way to the front and are relished by both sides of politics—he will discover the reason. The plain truth is—and Lieut. Foghorn Macdonald and all the other brave fellows who have worked their way up to uniforms they can't get, ought to know it—that there is a shortage of khaki in Canada and that the Honorary Colonels and Brigadier Generals whom Sir Sam is turning out by the dozen have the first call on the available supply, not to mention the little lieutenants who consider the clothes the biggest part of the job. Besides these people pay for their own uniforms, and Lieut. Foghorn Macdonald is probably expecting to get his duds for nothing from the Government.

KHAKI IS SCARCE.

I fancy I can hear Lieut. Foghorn Macdonald saying "Pish Tush" or something even stronger, but really he doesn't realize what a strain on the khaki supply the Honorary Colonels and Brigadier Generals constitute. If he did he wouldn't yell for clothes out of his turn. First come, first served, and you can bet that the Honorary Colonels and Brigadier Generals and little lieutenants come first every time. They come first to such an extent that hard working privates have to go around for months at a stretch with nothing in the way of a military uniform except a band on the sleeve of their old coat and often enough they can't even get that.

Lieut. Foghorn Macdonald will probably have read somewhere that Sir Sam created sixteen Canadian Brigadier Generals the other day, and the Lieutenant may consider that a supreme act of creation. Sixteen Brigadier-Brindles—sixteen for a peace army of say thirty thousand—some Brigadiers, eh? But nothing to what Sir Sam does in the way of Honorary Colonels. Sam counts that day lost when he doesn't turn out at least one honorary colonel. The Stuarts, you may remember, exercised the King's touch for scrofula and things like that, but when it comes to curing people of being civilians, by making them honorary colonels, Sam has the King James's and the Charles's beaten forty ways.

In fact he is so handy at it that Parliament will need to pass a law against it if we are to have room in this country for any settlers except honorary colonels.

We must have now one honorary colonel to every square mile of superficial area, and naturally it takes a lot of khaki to cover all these loyal bosoms. The thirstier an honorary colonel, the more khaki it takes to fit him—cloth shrinks so where there is any moisture and everybody knows that the dry canteen doesn't apply to the honorary colonels. If it did, the honorary colonel recruiting list would fall off considerably.

OVERSHOES SERVICE.

All of which will explain to Lieut. Foghorn Macdonald why he cannot get his uniform. What does he want a new uniform for anyway? Think how muddled up he will get it in the trenches. On the other hand, think how spotless the average honorary colonel keeps his. No mud, no blood, no powder. The honorary colonels have enlisted for overshoes service only. They belong to the home guard. If the home guard shows any signs of gadding about in foreign countries in the danger zone, the honorary colonels may be expected to drop out. This is not lack of courage on their part, but a laudable desire not to spoil their beautiful uniforms, which cost a lot of money.

Like Henry Ford, the honorary colonels believe in peace without bloodshed, and though the real colonels may think the less of them for it, they are putting up a great fight along those lines. For moral victories the honorary colonels are prepared to lay down their lives, but physical violence they spurn. But, heavens, how they shine when the wounds and the slaughter and all that disagreeable brute force part of it are over. Sir Sam has said somewhere that he is willing to head the brass band and lead the boys to Berlin when the war reaches that stage—by "boys" meaning of course the honorary colonels, who simply revel in parade duty and will always be found in the van on such occasions.



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