

THE DAILY MAIL

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MESSAGE TO YOUNG MEN.

"After a long life I shall remind you that already many problems rise before you; problems of race division, problems of creed differences, problems of economic conflict, problems of national duty and national aspiration. Let me tell you that for the solution of these problems you have a safe guide, an unflinching light, if you remember that faith is better than doubt, and love is better than hate.

"Banish doubt and hate from your life. Let your souls be ever open to the strong promptings of faith and the gentle influence of brotherly love. Be adamant against the haughty; be gentle and kind to the weak. Let your aim and your purpose, in good report or in ill, in victory or in defeat, be so to live, so to strive, so to serve as to do your part to raise the standard of life to higher and better spheres."—Sir Wilfrid Laurier at London, Ont.

THE MUNICIPAL MUDDLE.

The County Councillors displayed good judgment in their decision not to proceed with the business of the annual meeting until some effort is made to straighten out the crimp which the late Secretary-Treasurer seems to have put in the County accounts. The affairs of the County seem to be in a bad way and it will probably be two or three weeks before it will be possible to restore some semblance of order out of the chaotic conditions which prevail. In the meantime an auditor will be set to work on the books and will prepare a report on the same for submission to the Council when it reconvenes.

The County blue book, containing a statement of the accounts, is supposed to be ready to lay before the Council at its January meeting. The late Secretary-Treasurer got away behind with the work last year. It was late in December before any of the copy for the book reached the hands of the printer, and then he got only a small portion of it. The balance of the copy is still to be prepared, and if it is true as stated, that the late secretary-treasurer had not posted his books since the July meeting of the Council, it will be some weeks yet before the blue book makes its appearance.

Although a determined effort is being made in some quarters to hush the matter up, a shortage in his accounts undoubtedly furnished the motive for the tragic death of the late Secretary-Treasurer. Warden Stairs, in a statement given out to the press on Friday last, placed the shortage at \$1,100. Yesterday the County Auditor, Mr. G. E. Armstrong, when questioned by Coun. Pat Graham at the Council meeting, said the shortage was \$1,200. The exact amount will not be known until an audit of the accounts is made, but in the light of the statement made by the retiring Warden and confirmed by the auditor, the public is safe in assuming that without doubt there is a shortage which amounts to a considerable sum.

The late Secretary-Treasurer was not looked upon as an extravagant man. He was in receipt of salaries amounting to \$2,200 per year from the county and province. He had an office heated and lighted, free of rent, and in addition he had his private practice and some perquisites for drafting legislation for the Provincial Government. He did not gamble in stocks, so far as known, and intimate acquaintances say that his income was more than ample for his living expenses. It is rather puzzling, therefore, to know what disposition he made of the funds which he borrowed from the County. At the July meeting of the Council, the Secretary-Treasurer's accounts were examined by a committee and pronounced correct. From this, therefore, it is fairly safe to assume that the defalcation must have occurred during the last six months. He may possibly have loaned the money to some friends who were base enough to return evil for good, or he may have used it to wipe out some long-standing indebtedness, although evidence to support this latter theory is rather scanty. In any case he used money which did not belong to him, and the guarantee company will be expected to make the amount good to the municipal treasury.

It is not surprising that some members of the County Council, and others who have been active in politics and great sticklers for honesty and purity in public life, should now show a disposition to keep the people in the dark in regard to the late Secretary-Treasurer's financial relations with the County. These worthies were not so considerate of widows and orphans a few years ago when a trusted official of the Provincial Government died under tragic circumstances. It is a well-

known fact that some of the worst offenders at that time were close friends and even relatives of the late Secretary-Treasurer. Now that the chickens have come home to roost, these people should have sense enough to refrain from going about hunting for sympathy. All deplore the sad circumstances surrounding the death of the late Mr. Bliss. He was a man of education and ability, who had been unfortunate in some respects. He had no lack of friends who admired him for his good qualities, and no doubt some of them would have willingly given him financial assistance had he taken them into his confidence. He chose to adopt another and more extreme course, and there is no help for it now. All of the sympathy in the world will not restore him to his family. The amount of the shortage in his accounts can, however, be restored to the treasury of the Municipality, and some of the political friends and admirers of the late official who just now have such a horror of publicity, will probably have an opportunity to crystalize that sympathy into something of a more practical nature when the auditor completes his report. By coming across with the amount of the shortage they can do a whole lot towards protecting the name of the late lamented Secretary-Treasurer, but little can be accomplished by an attempt to keep the facts from the public.

Fredericton friends were pleased to hear that His Majesty the King had conferred the distinguished service order upon Lieut. Col. A. E. G. Mackenzie and Major Eric W. MacDonald. Lieut. Col. Mackenzie is the commanding officer of the 26th Battalion, the only New Brunswick corps to reach the front as a unit. He is a native of Campbellton and a graduate of the Provincial Normal School and of the U. N. B. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Legislature in the Liberal interest at the last provincial election. Major MacDonald is the only son of Rev. Dr. J. H. MacDonald, for some years pastor of the Brunswick Street Baptist Church, and spent his boyhood days in this city. He went to England with the 12th Battalion and was afterwards transferred.

Gracious New Year's messages were sent out by the Duke of Devonshire on Monday to the King of Great Britain, President Poincare of France, King Albert of the Belgians, the Emperor of Japan, the President of Portugal, and the King of Italy. Messages were also sent to the governments of Newfoundland, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and to the people of India. Similar messages will be sent on the beginning of the Russian new year to the Czar of Russia and the Kings of Roumania, Serbia and Montenegro.

Through Our Sieve

It 'sno plow, said one alderman.
Even in Rome we wouldn't want to do what the Romeos do.
It's human nature for one man to ask another how he feels—also not to care.
Francis X. is not the only ex-bushman who tried to be a Romeo.

Pity the poor guy with no bad habits. New Year's means nothing in his life.

The cost of monkeys has gone up. The pink ones always did come high.

Combination - chemical - engine - and motor-drawn fire-truck. Puzzle: find the hyphen!

The name of the new Austrian political leader, Clam Martinez, sounds like the first course to a short dinner.

One seldom realizes how much worse the world is growing until he hears two old settlers exchanging reminiscences.

You may tip the soda clerk a wink; but you can't tip a Pullman porter that way.

Those western farmers who traded their farms for wild horses to be caught in Arizona now realize that they belong to the number of suckers that are born every minute.

NOTED RUSSIAN MONK HAS PASSED AWAY

London, Jan. 2.—Despatches from the Reuter and other Petrograd correspondents say that Gregory Rasputin, the Russian monk, who is reputed to exercise a great and mysterious influence over Emperor Nicholas, and was said to be pro-German in his sympathies, is dead.

According to Reuter's correspondent, Rasputin's body was found on the bank of one of the branches of the river Neva. The other correspondents say that Rasputin was assassinated under dramatic circumstances. It was related that twice previously Rasputin had been reported to have been murdered,

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CONSPIRACY TRIAL AT SAN FRANCISCO

It is Now Thought That the Case Will go to the Jury on Friday.

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 2.—The fifth week of the trial of Franz Bopp, German consul general here, and six associates, on charges of conspiring to violate neutrality by alleged dynamiting of Canadian tunnels and munition vessels destined for Great Britain and her allies, was begun in the Federal District Court today. Both sides agreed to make every effort to complete the presentation of evidence in order that the case may reach the jury by Friday night.

The cross-examination of C. C. Crowley, a detective employed by the German consulate for the announced purpose of investigating alleged neutrality violations is to be resumed by district attorney Preston.

Crowley, according to the government prosecutors, planned the various alleged dynamite plots at the behest of the San Francisco German consular officials. He was under cross examination all day Friday, when adjournment was taken over the holidays.

HON. T. C. CASGRAIN WAS LAID TO REST

Montreal, Jan. 2.—With the simple ceremonial of the Catholic ritual, the funeral service of Hon. Mr. Casgrain, late Postmaster General of Canada, took place at the Church of the Gesù this morning, the last sad rites evoking the presence of leaders of the public, professional and business life of the whole country.

The Governor General, the federal and provincial cabinets, the post office department, the local bar, the Bank of Montreal and countless local financial institutions were represented by delegations.

In accordance with Jesuit practice there was a dearth of decoration of mourning customary at Catholic funeral services, the last rites being of the simplest character.

TO NAME TOWNSHIPS AFTER BATTLEFIELDS

Quebec, Jan. 2.—The provincial government has decided to give to the new townships which will be created in the province the names of the great battles in which Canadian soldiers took part and covered themselves with glory.

So, in the near future there will probably be the townships of Ypres, Courcellette, St. Julien, Langemarck, Festubert, etc.

It was also decided to give to natural landmarks in these townships the names of noted fallen heroes.

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A Happy New Year to All

R. L. BLACK, - - - - York Street Agent for Standard Patterns.