

## "OBSERVER" THINKS THAT WE HAVE TOY SOLDIERS

Thinks That Young Men Should Study Peace Problems Rather Than "Swank Around" in Uniform

Observer has a few ideas on the militia, and peace. Every person may not agree with him. Others will believe he is absolutely right. He says:

There seems to be some indication at present that the Canadian government contemplates increasing the appropriation for militia and defence. There will, of course, be two points of view upon the advisability of this step. The whole question of Canada's attitude in case of another war involving Great Britain is too complicated to discuss here. Most people no matter how pacifist they may be in their opinions, will admit that they would take up arms in defence of their country, should it be invaded. Granting this, then, hardly anyone would claim that Canada's present military establishment is at all adequate for the task. On the other hand to build up a force which could be considered adequate would entail an enormous expense, and one which Canada at her present stage of development and population would seem unable to bear. The point I would like to raise is this. Why spend money in doing something which would prove inadequate when the time for testing came? And, conversely, why continue to spend money on the utterly useless organization that we have at the present time?

We have in this province several militia units; and similar units are scattered over the Dominion. These units are merely skeleton organizations, and entirely unequipped and untrained for active service. Some of these units attend local camps for a short period during the year where some kind of training is supposed to be carried out. Such training as is given is hopelessly out of date; and bears no relation to the type of warfare they would be called upon to face in the event of hostilities. Again, this instruction has been mainly for the benefit of commissioned officers and N.C.O.'s. During the remainder of the year the personnel of these units devote their attention mainly to the social side of their duties.

Undoubtedly the opportunity to wear a uniform of some kind, and attend military and government social functions is the chief incentive for joining the militia on the part of the younger class of officer. Those who have never "smelt gunpowder" have, of course no conception of the grimmer side of army life. They are merely attracted by the glitter of the uniform, and the chance to show themselves off to the girls at the various dances. One can scarcely blame them; for that is youth. And one does not question, but that if the call came, they would respond as unhesitatingly as did the youth of 1914. And they would be just as untrained and unready as were the youth of 1914. It is true that one of these younger officers said in my hearing that not under any consideration would he ever go to war. To him and his like the militia is just a social club; but with the advantages that other clubs do not have, of being able to doll up in his blues and medals, (for some of them have medals, obtained Heaven alone knows how), and the chance to get away from all restraint for a certain period every summer.

What is harder to understand is the presence of officers in these clubs and messes who are actually war veterans. Most of them have been real soldiers at some time in their lives, and opportunity is provided for them to associate with other real soldiers in organizations for that purpose. Why an actual war veteran should want to belong to any military organization at all after the experience he has already had, is a mystery.

I tried to make it clear at the outset that I am not arguing against any defence establishment that is within Canada's ability to organize; that would serve its purpose, and not be a joke. But what we have at present is nothing but a joke. The government is paying a number of officers to provide themselves with ornate uniforms and swank around at social functions. This is certainly great

military training. Our prospective warrior will find it a little more of a task to run a bayonet through a man than to juggle a couple of glasses of punch from the buffet. If these people want to get together and organize a social club there is no reason why they shouldn't, but why do it at the expense of the government? And why pose as the saviours of the country? What could they ever save as the thing as carried on at present? And think how those beautiful uniforms would suffer if anything really nasty should happen.

This has been a hard season for our militia. State mourning has put a crimp in the social functions, and now the Governor General won't be here. The previous uniform will have to stay in the closet; and how it will smell of camphor and moth balls before it can be worn again. And the lovely, glittering sword will have to rust in its scabbard before it is again dipped in the blood of the imaginary foe. Truly, it is a bad year for our local warriors, and one fears that the eagle eye will become dimmed, and the trusty arm will weaken, for lack of fair partners to waft gently over the polished floor.

Young man, if you want to serve your country, serve her in peace. Work for the continuance of peace in this weary, distracted world. Join, and form societies for the study of the problems that are threatening the safety of the world today, and try to find how they may be solved. Don't play with toy swords and tricky uniforms, and imagine you have saved the Empire. Snap out of it.

OBSERVER.

## MAN on the STREET

(By W. T. Whitehead)  
Use and Custom

Speaking in a general sense, it is usually a painful duty to go to the Customs House, whether it is to receive a package from foreign lands or to pay the sales tax. There is always a feeling of money paid without value received. One goes in muttering softly under his breath and emerges more audibly.

This is not true in Fredericton, however. One is greeted by an air of cool freshness which goes far toward mitigating the ire. The gentlemen one speaks to through the little windows are efficient and pleasant. Moreover, there is more than a hint of an English accent in some of the voices one hears. Is anything more agreeable and soothing than a cultured English accent?

Pay or Fight  
The money must be paid. One has made up his mind to this before going to the Customs House, but grudgingly. Now the fact must be faced, and the shillings placed in the custody of government. There is a rattle of papers and the English accent says, "Rather a pleasant day, isn't it?" (A vision of the green English countryside, tall trees and chairs upon a lawn, an easy atmosphere and soft pleasant voices. "Thank you, another spot of tea if I may. Delightful weather, isn't it?")

"Sign these papers here." (The pen is mightier than the sword. The English have done a few commendable things with the pen and it is recalled that the sword has played a small part in the making of the greatest of empires.)

One Easy Payment  
"Twenty-one dollars and eleven cents, please." (Men with that same accent pushed the borders of empire to the far corners of the earth. Facing every conceivable danger in jungle, mountain and desert, raging lion and lurking serpent, seething torrent and clutching quicksand, doggedly they maintained the worth of Englishmen and the integrity of Britain.)

"Thank you, and good afternoon." One is on the sidewalk and finds that amazingly the extraction has been painless. The vacancy in the pocket is compensated by the tunefulness in the heart. The English are a great people.

## SOCIAL HAPPENINGS

**Entertained at University**  
President and Mrs. C. C. Jones entertained delightfully at luncheon today in honor of Sir Edward Beatty. The table decorations were roses and the guests included besides the guest of honor, Premier A. A. Dysart, President C. C. Jones, Chief Justice J. H. Barry, Mr. Justice O. S. Crockett, Dr. L. H. Newman, Hon. A. C. Taylor, W. G. Clark, M.P., Dr. W. H. Brittain and C. F. Bailey.

Miss Ethel O'Hara of this city left today for Boston and New York, where she will visit friends.

**St. Anthony's Picnic to be Continued**  
St. Anthony's picnic is being continued this evening. You are cordially invited to attend.

The ladies of the C.W.L. are making arrangements for a picnic to be held next Wednesday at the Hermitage for the Girl Guides.

Miss Mary Barker returned home last evening from Saint John, where she had been the guest of Miss Mary Evelyn Lawson for the past few days.

Mr. Justice O. S. Crockett and Mrs. Crockett were among those from Fredericton who were in Saint John yesterday attending the funeral of Mrs. Murray MacLaren.

Miss Helen Seely, who has been spending the past two weeks with her parents Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Seely is returning to Boston, Mass., on Saturday.

Mrs. W. E. West, who has been visiting relatives and friends in the city during the past week, left this morning for her home at Windsor, N. S.

The guests of Farraline Home were entertained at a lawn party yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Harry A. Smith. The hostesses were the members of the Golden Rule Circle of the King's Daughters.

Miss Ida Ray, who has been the guest of Miss Emma Todd for the past week, left this morning for her home in Salem, Mass. She was accompanied to the United States by Miss Helen Pond, who will spend a week with friends.

**To Spend Season at Dorchester**  
Hugh Dysart, C.P.A., of Boston, accompanied by Mrs. Dysart, their daughter, Miss Florence, and their son Hugh, have arrived in Dorchester where they will spend the next six weeks at their summer home. Friends throughout the province and elsewhere will regret to learn of Mrs. Dysart's recent illness which confined her to the hospital for several weeks, but they will be pleased to know that she is now recovering nicely. Miss Dysart graduated this year from the Beaver Country Day School, a private school for girls at Brookline, Mass. Her brother is a rising young tennis champion in Massachusetts, having this year won the Longwood Boys championship in Brookline and was entered in the State championship, having, unfortunately, been obliged to withdraw on account of his mother's illness, which at the time was serious.—Moncton Times.

Mr. Dysart is a brother of Premier A. A. Dysart.

Miss Vivyan Smith and Miss Betty Mercer of Woodstock are guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Dayton.

Miss Cairine Wilson, daughter of Mr. Norman and the Hon. Cairine Wilson, of Ottawa, entertained a party of young people at a boat picnic recently at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea.

The delegates, their wives and daughters attending the C.S.T.A. convention were entertained at an enjoyable dance last evening at the Memorial Hall of the University. Over two hundred guests were present and light refreshments were served shortly before midnight. This afternoon the guests are being entertained at a reception given by the Experimental Farm at the home of Mrs. C. F. Bailey.

**C.G.I.T. Group to P.E.I.**

A group of C.G.I.T. girls left this morning for Cavendish, P.E.I. where they will spend the next two weeks. They were accompanied by their leader Mrs. Myrtle Moffett. The party included Miss Becky Watson, Miss Patsy Morrison, Miss Mary Jackson, Miss Jean Ramsay and Miss Louise Craig.

Mrs. W. D. Herridge, who, with her brother, the Right Hon. R. B. Bennett is on a trip to the West, was entertained by several hostesses while in Vancouver last week. Mrs. Julius Griffith gave a luncheon in honor of Mrs. Herridge. Mrs. M. G. Nichols entertained at a luncheon at the Jericho Country Club, covers being laid for twenty at a table decorated with pink and mauve flowers. Mrs. W. L. Newson was the hostess at an informal afternoon party in Mrs. Herridge's honor.

## C.S.T.A. Discusses

(Continued from Page One)

sioner for Canada, expressed some doubt as to the advisability of stressing too much the amusement angle of the shows. He thought it must divert from the agricultural angle. C. Eric Bouldon, of Truro advocated a middle course, while G. W. Frost of the Saint John Exhibition Association said that unless the fairs are allowed to use amusements as a drawing card the government will have to be prepared to increase their financial support. J. K. King, deputy minister of Agriculture, who also spoke, praised the smaller country fairs. He intimated that the department of agriculture was studying the matter with the intention of improvement.

## "NOVELTY SHOP"

The first time you are down street drop in and see the NEW BABY ESSENTIALS suitable for gifts for infants and children up to six years, which have just been received.

Also just received a supply of Hand Made Lace Centres and Doyilies all reasonably priced. Your inspection is invited.

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## QUANTITY OF STAMPS FOUND IN RIVER TODAY

The R. C. M. P. who are investigating the disappearance of Robert Williamson, Toronto man, who paddled away from the West End beach on Monday afternoon and who has not been seen since, were faced with another tangent of mystery today. Near where the overturned "duck-boat" was discovered about a quarter of a mile upriver and near the middle of the river, has been discovered a quantity of stamps, probably \$40 worth. The stamps were found floating near the spot where the boat, together with two paddles and a shirt, were picked up by police.

The police reported no further clues in the Toronto man's disappearance late this afternoon. A police boat is still dragging the river this afternoon facing the eventuality that the man may have drowned.

**MOTORING THROUGH N. S.**

Reginald Waddelow and his brother Frank Waddelow, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Waddelow of this city, left recently on a motoring trip to points in Nova Scotia.

**CITY HALL STAFF BUSY**

The staff at the city treasurer's office are busy this week, with a large number of citizens paying their taxes in order to secure the five per cent discount. The final date for discount on tax payments is next week.

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" Cross Creek 5.45 p.m.

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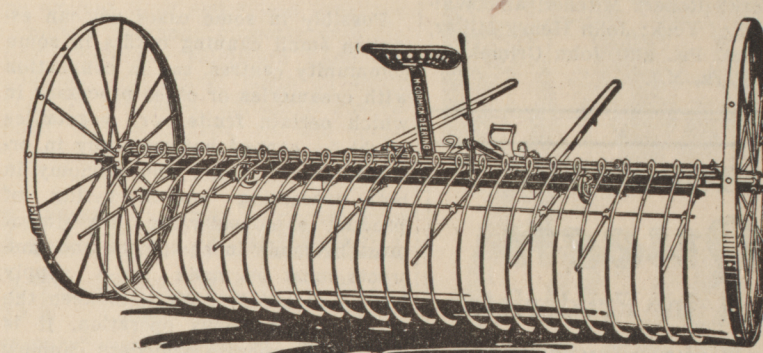
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