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THE WAR PLEDGE

A prominent citizen over the nom de plume Temperance, makes a suggestion in a letter published in another column which is well worth adopting, namely the presentation to and wearing of a pledge button by all who sign the war abstinence pledge.

The war is by no means over, the end is not even in sight, but what the end shall be is certain. The Allies will win; the enemy will be defeated, and through ages to come the years of the war and the date of its ending will be an epoch in the history of the world.

We commend the suggestion to those who are working out the details of one of the most important moves undertaken in this generation.

OUR INSTITUTIONS

Our country depends upon its institutions. Our churches, our schools, our co-operative associations, our fraternal societies—all are inseparably connected with the progress of the country.

In this province co-operation is making steady and definite progress, but its most lasting effects will undoubtedly result from the spirit of interdependence which it is fostering.

It is most encouraging to find that institutions for mutual helpfulness are multiplying in this province and that the spirit of co-operation is spreading.

EXAGGERATION

It will be recalled that some time ago a good deal of sympathy was expressed for General Leman, the gallant defender of Liege, when it was announced that his two legs had been amputated as the result of wounds.

This is perhaps a fair average sample of the work of that celebrated lady, Dame Rumour. From a toe to a foot, then to a leg, then to two legs in a few weeks is quite a growth for a little item of news which set out into the world true, fresh, innocent.

And the growth of a yarn like this is not the result of one person's exaggeration or prevarication. It fell upon good ground, evidently, wherever it struck, and grew apace.

How do rumors grow? A person is reported to be indisposed; we next hear of him as being sick; later he is seriously sick and the doctors have given up all hope; then he is reported dead, and a few days afterwards we are surprised to meet him, still in the flesh.

Exaggeration is a common vice. We speak of thousands when we mean tens or dozens. We describe things as the "biggest," the "smallest," the "best" the "worst," we had ever seen, but we do it thoughtlessly—perhaps instinctively, now that the habit of exaggeration grows. We happen to meet a couple of deformed people on the street and we conclude the city is infested with cripples; we see a drunken man on the street, and later another and we conclude that drunkenness is rampant in the city and we are not slow in declaring it the most drunken city in Canada.

This habit of exaggeration is one that the young, particularly, should be expressly warned against. The old who indulge are perhaps incurable and we must learn the judicious use of the proverbial grain of salt when dealing with the products of their imagination.

AFTER THE WAR

The scientists—or at least some of them—are agitating themselves, perhaps unnecessarily, over the probable effects of the war upon coming generations.

ity, says that as a result of the present war the coming generation may be not only two inches shorter, on the average, but will be less intelligent, less possessed of an adventurous spirit, and an all-round clearheadedness, not to mention keenness of judgment and depth of reasoning.

With a considerable percentage of the most physically fit men in so many of the European countries engaged in the war Dr. Walter's conclusion is perhaps a natural one, but it must be remembered that, after all, only a comparatively small percentage of those engaged in the war will be killed or even maimed.

To measure the physical deterioration by definite inches is assuming a good deal more than science is usually willing to risk. War's losses, although numbered by thousands, and terrible to contemplate are on the whole but a comparatively small percentage of the number who go into battle.

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION

Not in the history of Canada has there been a more important session of Parliament than that closed last Thursday. One of the first acts was the voting of one hundred million dollars for actual war service and another the making of provision for revenue to pay interest on war loans and to make up the deficit in revenue due to the effects of the war upon trade.

It was a session of scandals, scandals with some foundation, but exaggerated far beyond their foundation. As an exchange well say: "History hardly goes back to the time when men were not found to grasp the opportunity of war for making profit at the soldier's expense.

Premier Borden and his ministers, without exception may well look back upon the session with pride and have entrenched themselves more securely than ever in the confidence of the people.

NOTES

The "spuds" have caused the greatest stir in Halifax since the war began. The good impression they have made in their first appearance will be deepened on further acquaintance for the contingent under Captain McKinnon and Lieut Bayer is just as good a bunch of fellows and smart soldiers as will be found anywhere in this broad dominion.

The Patriot is still sadly befogged in its attempts to criticize the Government's surplus. It argues that had the Government paid indebtedness not due till 1915 it would have had a deficit. This is on a par with Mr. Richard's sage peroration that had the present Government the same revenue as the Liberal Government and had they insisted on spending at the same rate as they now do, the deficit would have been enormous.

But one after another they (the German warships) have all gone—into hiding or into the depths. And the triumph of England's sea power is complete. Once more Britannia is undisputed mistress of the seas.

Aviators' raids from Germany over Great Britain are increasing in frequency, and possibly will be continued. The old observation that they do not give returns equal to the risk run by those in charge of the craft still applies, and is likely to apply all through the war.

THE BOODLERS WILL BE PROSECUTED AND GRAFT MUST BE RESTITUTED

Premier Borden in Statement at Closing Sitting of House of Commons, Clearly Sets Forth Government's Position in Relation to Those Who Have Sought to Profit Unfairly in War Contracts.

In the House of Commons after Mr. H. B. Morphy had moved that the final report of the Public Accounts Committee be adopted, Sir Robert Borden rose to speak. He pointed out that the committee had been engaged in investigating matters not yet reported by the auditor general to the House, and these therefore were under consideration a year in advance of the time they would be considered under ordinary circumstances.

They understood in so doing that there was only one possible result. Because, if any matters were brought forth, the natural result would be that the facts would be magnified and the public would be excited. But these considerations should not weigh with any government and they did not weigh with him.

DREW PARALLEL WITH PREDECESSORS.

Sir Robert said he would like to remark in passing that this was not the course followed during the sixteen years preceding his Government's coming into power. From the time of the first inquiry in 1898, down to the last inquiry into the N. T. R., there was a refusal for proper investigation and a disposition to restrict investigations within the narrowest possible confines.

"If there was any wrong doing in connection with the public accounts the members of the government, and particularly myself and the Minister of Militia, wanted to know it. I spoke to the Minister of Customs, a member of the committee, in the presence of the Minister of Militia, and he most heartily endorsed my views that we wanted an inquiry of the widest scope and we proposed if wrong doing was discovered to compel restitution and to prosecute."

Sir Robert then quoted from the reports of the committee to show that time and again the Minister of Customs had repeated that these were his instructions and he had pursued these instructions to the last.

DISBELIEVES COL. JONES MADE STATEMENT.

The Prime Minister, referred to the case of young Powell, the clerk of

DAILY SELECTIONS FOR READERS OF THE GUARDIAN

Furnished by W. S. Louson.

BE JOYFUL.

(By Walt Mason.) You'd better be joking than kicking or croaking, you'd better be saying that life is a joy, then folks will caress you and praise you and bless you, and say you're a peach and a broth of a boy.

the Carleton Drug Co., turned first to the statement of Shaver, the representative of the Chicago Drug Co., that he was informed by Col. Jones, director of medical service, that the Government did not desire to purchase direct from the manufacturers and producers, but through middlemen.

THE WAR PLEDGE

Sir.—The inauguration of the movement for total abstinence during the war at Sunday night's splendid meeting in the Drill Shed and the earnest eloquent and enthusiastic addresses delivered by His Lordship the Bishop of Charlottetown, Premier Mathieson, Revs. Canon Simpson, J. L. Dawson and Dr. Fullerton must be very gratifying to every patriotic citizen and particularly so to every Temperance worker and friend of temperance throughout the Province.

The present total abstinence movement if carried to a successful issue, as I have no doubt it will be, will form the brightest page in the history of our fair Province, a page which will be read with pleasure and pride by the children yet unborn.

Sir Robert drew attention to resolutions asking for further and fuller inquiry in the Public Accounts Committee voted down by the Liberals at various times, and also quoted testimony before the committee to show how they had blocked inquiry and shielded witnesses.

I hope the few remarks I have ventured to make may enlist able pens to support and encourage the great total abstinence movement which has placed Prince Edward Island in the proud position of being the first province of the Empire to follow the noble example set by his subjects and the world by His Majesty King George in the total abstinence movement, which gives promise of being the most powerful and far-reaching movement for the uplift and betterment of our people in all walks and conditions of life, ever inaugurated in this province.

I am, Sir, &c., TEMPERANCE.

"Sponges—all sizes, shapes and styles—all prices. They're just a little better than the same amount of money will buy elsewhere. Priced from 5c. Up. The Two Macs, 14c. Great

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The Eastern Trust Company 154 Richmond Street

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