

Back The Men At The Front

LORD SHAUGHNESSY'S APPEAL

In response to the request of a number of prominent French-Canadian gentlemen of the Province of Quebec, Lord Shaughnessy has expressed his views on the present conditions as follows:—



LORD SHAUGHNESSY.

THERE is a germ in my system that renders obnoxious every form of legislation calculated to invade the personal liberty of the subject, save such as may be necessary for the safety of the nation and for the peace, health and general welfare of the people.

Enforced military service in time of peace, as it existed in some foreign countries, would come within my category of objectionable measures, because it has the effect of taking a man from his ordinary avocation, and, for given periods, making him subject to military regulations under the control of military officials, not because of danger immediately impending, but because that within his life-time something may occur to involve the nation in war, making trained military forces necessary.

The encouragement of the military spirit in normal times is not best for the people whose aim should be the promotion of a policy making for peace, prosperity and happiness. But it may be said if one nation neglects its military establishment, its aggressive and covetous neighbor with his trained army and ever-ready implements of war, will one day seek a cause of quarrel and overpower it.

The gravity of this contingency admitted, it becomes apparent that the effort of nations must be not only to create and maintain military forces sufficient for defence if there be attack, but strong enough to assume the offensive if that appear to be the best strategy.

Should it be conceded that the safety of the nation demands an unremittent condition of military preparedness, it may be properly asked where the limit is to be placed, because there must be a limit or a military autocracy will ensue, such as that which the Allies are now determined to destroy in Germany at every serious cost.

If the people are to be free from this menace of militarism, there must be a pride of country and a national spirit of patriotism that will provide all the necessary men, money and material with the least possible delay, whenever they may be needed to defend the rights and liberties of the nation, all citizens bearing their respective shares of the burden, as nearly as possible in like proportion.

At the outbreak of the present war, Britain's navy was ready and the splendid achievements of that arm of the service, saving as they did a situation fraught with most serious danger, will always be a source of gratification and pride, but the regular land forces consisted of a mere handful of men, barely sufficient for the maintenance of order at home, and it became a matter of momentous importance that a large army of citizen soldiers should be organized, equip-

ped, trained and forwarded to the fighting front with the utmost promptness. This work was undertaken by the late Lord Kitchener, and immediately all of the Overseas Dominions of the Empire expressed their willingness and, indeed, determination to supplement and assist the army of the King by sending troops and meeting other war requirements to the limit of their respective resources. Canada was among the first to declare that the war in which Britain and France were engaged for the defence of human liberty was Canada's war also, a declaration that was sounded throughout the Dominion from coast to coast by an overwhelming majority of her people. The men of Canada responded nobly to the call for volunteers and the Overseas Army went to the firing line where their prowess and bravery won for them universal admiration. Thousands of them made the supreme sacrifice, and are buried on the battle-fields. Other thousands were wounded or taken prisoners, thus putting them out of service, and a great many others, after a long period in the trenches, require rest and recuperation.

They call to us for a further supply of men to fill the gaps in their depleted ranks, and failure to respond to that call would not only be a lasting disgrace to Canada, but might be a matter of no small moment in determining the outcome of the struggle.

Although we are remote from the scene of conflict, and, therefore, out of direct touch with its horrors, it is absurd to assume that our interest in the outcome is different in any degree from that of any of the other peoples of the Entente Allies. If, by any chance, the Central Powers succeeded in defeating Britain and her Allies, our freedom would be gone. We would be under the thumb of an arro-

gant and relentless foe, and we would be reduced to a species of vassalage. All our independence, all our hopes and aspirations, and those of our children for generations to come, are bound up indissolubly in the defeat of our enemies.

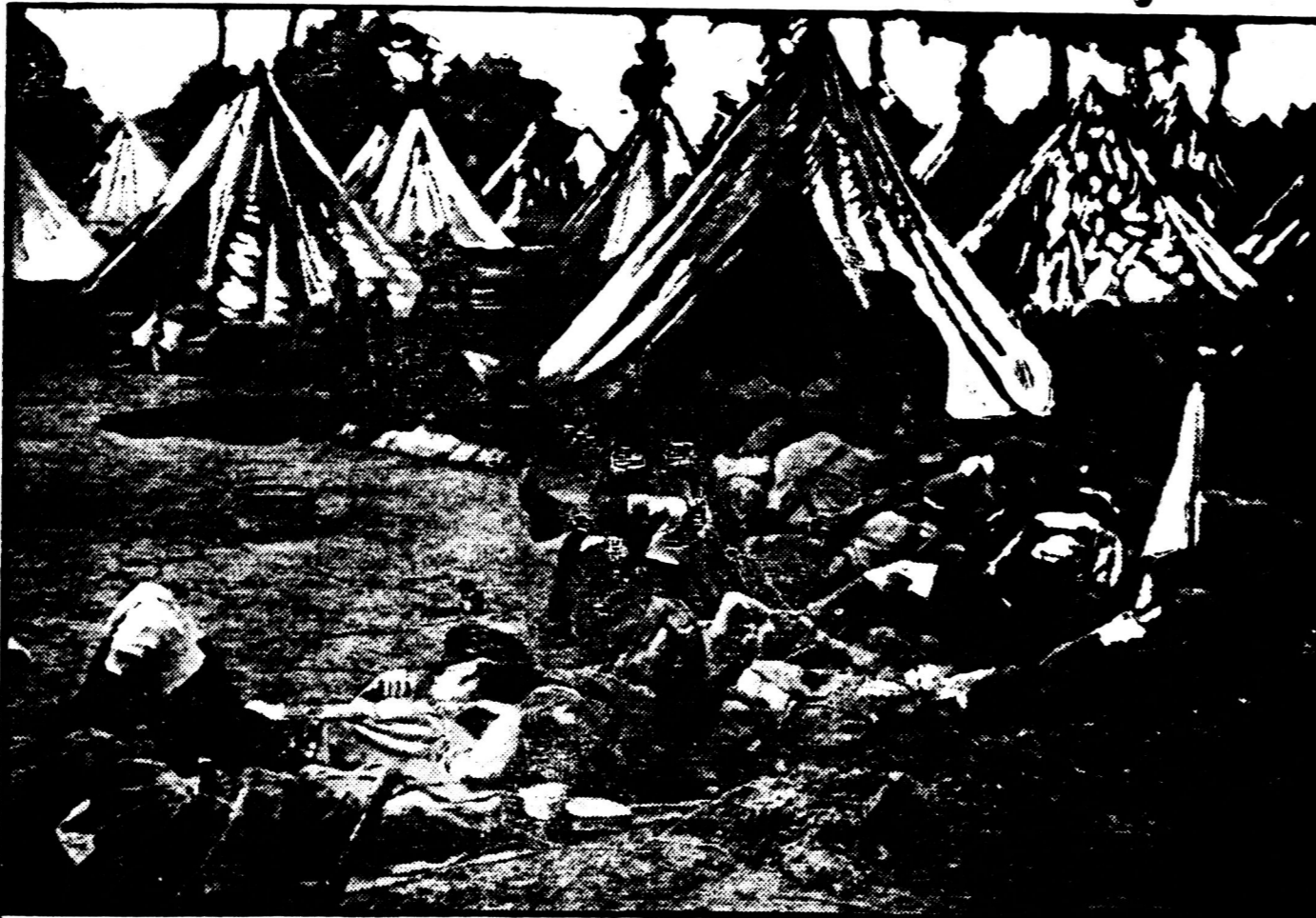
To the accomplishment of this purpose, let us continue to bend all our energies. Notwithstanding the apparent margin provided by the number of men sent overseas, our military authorities, having the most accurate information, declare that further reinforcements are essential and that they cannot be secured by voluntary enlistment. In these circumstances, conscription, however pronounced may be our antipathy to legislation of that description, should be accepted not as an invasion of the personal liberty of the subject, but as a measure designed to preserve it. We must continue to equip, arm and support our own troops and to give such material assistance to the Allies as is possible by most strenuous effort. Indeed, if it be necessary, the scope of the Conscription Bill should be so enlarged as to compel service in all branches of industry furnishing war material and supplies.

Protray legislation and secondary speeches commencing as a rule from those whose only contribution to the war is in the form of language, and which may tend to encourage domestic strife, should be suppressed, and every utterance that savours of disloyalty should bring prompt punishment to the offender.

Conscription is now the law of the country, and no matter what his views about the policy of Government or the motives and methods alleged to have actuated our recruiting and other war activities during the first two years of the war, it is now the sacred duty of every good citizen of Canada loyally and willingly to assist the authorities in putting the Selective Conscription law into effect with smoothness and impartiality, reserving his criticism of policy and procedure until the war is over.

The man with a substantial income feels the effect of an Income Tax, while one with little or no income has nothing to pay, can accept it with equanimity and for somewhat similar reasons the man with one or more sons is apt to have a conception of conscription quite different from that of the man who has neither son nor grandsons to contribute. The latter class should be moderate and considerate in their public utterances on the subject. Those of us who, like myself, have seen all our relatives of military age go overseas, and who have experienced the sadness of long separation, cannot help feeling compassion for the parents whose affection for their sons has been exaggerated the terrors of military service, but for the young man themselves there is no such feeling because, if being fit for service and having none of the recognized grounds on which to demand exemption, they are unwilling to take any posts that may be assigned to them in this hour of danger, they are neglecting their duty as citizens and selfishly evading their share of the burden that the country has to bear.

THE BATTLE OF FLANDERS



Just out of the trenches.—Some sleep whilst others play cards. —Photo by courtesy of G. P. R.



Artillery crossing the Yng. —Photo by courtesy of G. P. R.

Shower Baths for Hogs.

Shipping hogs to the slaughterhouse in freight cars is a precarious business. Strange to say, hogs, as a rule, do not suffer while the cars are in motion, but a great many die from overheating while the cars are not moving. Furthermore, the first warm weather of the season is more severe on hogs than the hot weather later in the season. A train may become stalled upon arrival at a division point and within 24 hours enough hogs may die from overheating to cause the shipper or the railroad a great financial loss.

To afford the shipper the protection he needs and to protect itself against loss, the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad has installed a hog-washing device at its principal division points. Immediately upon arriving at these points the freight trains carrying hogs are stopped and the hogs are given an impromptu shower bath. As a general thing, a stream of water is first turned into the bedding underneath the hogs. After the bedding is well saturated the nozzle of the hose is turned to the roof of the car and the water falls on the hogs. A drain box is provided under the car to carry off the waste water.—Popular Science Monthly.

Grasshoppers at Sea.

The grasshopper would seem to have nothing in common with the seagull, yet grasshoppers have been picked up in swarms at sea, 1,200 miles from the nearest land.

The African grasshopper, according to The Popular Science Monthly, has been known to cross the Red and Mediterranean seas in destructive numbers and even fly to the Canary Islands. For the most part these grasshoppers are of a migratory species (Schistocerca gregaria) noted for its great flights. The bodies are about four inches long and are equipped with large air sacs in addition to the usual breathing tubes. These sacs buoy up the insect so that it is able to stay in the air for days at a time, exerting practically no effort at all. During flight its speed varies from three to twenty miles an hour. When it is tired it rests on the water and is borne along on the waves.

Long Horse Railway.

The longest horse railway in the world is in the Argentine Republic.

He Lost His Case.

Lord Reading—better known to fame as Sir Rufus Isaacs—recently told the story of his first brief.

He had been retained to defend a man, a street trader, who had been summoned for selling bad eggs.

Mr. Isaacs, as he then was, expatiated at length on the splendid quality of the fruit, and in this he was, as was only natural, backed up by his client.

Presently the magistrate intervened. Had either of them tasted the fruit? he asked.

They both confessed that they had not. Whereupon the magistrate suggested that either the defendant or his counsel should eat some in court.

Mr. Isaacs turned to his client: "Go on," he whispered, "eat one or two."

"What will happen if I don't?" whispered the other in reply. "You'll lose the case." "All right," answered the defendant resignedly, "then lose it I'll have to."

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-- YES --

God help our fighting men if we do not stand behind them, God help our women and children if the Hun breaks through and brings this war to our shores. He spit his insults at us and we struck back. It's now a question of him or us, and we may expect no mercy.

Canada is beginning to know who are men and who are not; who are patriots and who are Slackers. The man who during the Victory Loan Campaign stands before you and cannot say that he has done his full share, though it may be small, is a thing despicable—a man to be shunned and hissed by every true Canadian.

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