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EDITORIALS

The following from the Monetary Times, which usually supports the government, is interesting:

"Sir Robert Borden, as Premier should insist that Major General Sam Hughes, as Minister of Militia, should cease his irresponsible chatter. If that is impossible, the Minister of Militia should be asked to resign, and resign. When the talkative minister attended the directors' luncheon at the National Exhibition, Toronto, in September, he addressed probably a hundred newspaper men. Tactfully, they gave his utterances scant notice in their journals afterwards. One remark then was that he had heard that German-Americans from Buffalo might invade Canada. 'Let 'em come,' said the minister. 'We have 10,000 men here who will trim them to a finish.' At a public meeting in London, Ont., last week, the minister is reported to have said: 'My critics will stop their yelping as a puppy chasing an express train gives up its job as a useless task,' adding that the engineer did not stop to throw stones, and promising himself some day to stop and 'shy a rock.' Interviewed by Toronto reporters later, the minister is reported as saying: 'Shut up! that is about all I want on that.

I warned you to shut up about that. Shut up! don't try to explain! His public reprimand of Major General Lesard at Toronto was also inexcusable.

Major General Sam Hughes is supposed to represent in the Cabinet the people of Canada. But he does not represent them, because there is not a citizen, except partisan-blinded politicians, who approves of the minister talking in this undignified way. Sir Robert Borden, Sir George Foster, Hon. W. T. White, and other ministers, have a high and proper appreciation of the dignity of Cabinet office in the Dominion. They appreciate also the gravity of the times. Major General Sam Hughes may be a military genius, but he seems to lack entirely any conception of the dignity of his position. Instead of creating confidence with a quiet and business-like manner, he acts as a disturbing firecracker. The way to repair matters is for the Minister of Militia to stop talking as do some spoiled 8-year-old schoolboys. The alternative is to appoint a war minister for Canada who is not too proud or too clever to emulate the ways of the war minister for Great Britain.

NO ALUM BRANCH BOYS' BRIGADE STARTED IN RUPERT. Quietly, and without any fuss or flare of trumpets, there has recently crept into our midst a branch of the greatest boys' movement in the world. Some few weeks ago Rev. H. R. Grant, of the First Presbyterian Church, ably assisted by Mr. R. McFarlane, organized the First Prince Rupert Company of the Boys' Brigade.

RAILWAYS WANT TIES. British Railways Looking Round for Further Supplies if Ordinary Sources Are Cut Off.

Cranbrook, B. C., Dec. 14.—Unrest among the lumbermen of this province over published reports that the Imperial government had let a contract in Alabama for ten million ties has been set at rest by a cablegram from Hon. George H. Perley, acting high commissioner. Mr. R. F. Green, Dominion member for Kootenay, was requested by local lumbermen to take the matter up with the Minister of Trade and Commerce and is in receipt of the following telegram:

"Following message just received from Mr. Perley: 'Have definite verbal assurance from Board of Trade that no such order for railway ties given or contemplated by Imperial government. Subsequently approached railway executive committee; no orders given by them but they added that English railway companies in view of the closing of ordinary sources of supply are looking around in case necessity arises to draw upon new territory. Would be well to have lumbermen forward fullest particulars available Canadian supply to the secretary of railway executive committee as early as possible.' (Signed) 'R. L. BORDEN.'"

ALIENS TO CLEAR SITES. Government Decides to Use Alien Enemies to Clear Sites for Experimental Farms.

Ottawa, Dec. 14.—It is understood that it has been decided by the government to utilize any of the alien enemies who have been interned in Ontario and Quebec to clear sites for experimental farms in Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec along the lines of the National Transcontinental Railway.

The government has had under consideration for some time the question of such farms along the route of the N. T. R. to demonstrate the value of these lands for agricultural purposes.

The illness of Hon. Martin Burrell has delayed carrying the scheme into operation. Active steps will be taken at once in the selection of the sites and in the preparatory work of clearing.

The alien enemy may be utilized for this purpose, as under the rules of international law provision must be made for their maintenance as long as they are detained in this country.

Some eight hundred are being sent to Petawawa military camp to clear the roads.

The Boys' Brigade movement, although new to Prince Rupert, is no stranger to Canada, or to the older countries. It was in the year 1883 that the late Sir Wm. A. Smith conceived the idea of getting hold of the boy for the Church by means of military drill. He put his idea into practice, and organized the First Glasgow Company of the Boys' Brigade out of a Sunday School class of some eight boys. Today the Boys' Brigade numbers 120,000 officers and boys the world over. No movement has been so thoroughly criticized and few so much misunderstood, and yet through a storm of opposition in its infancy, the Boys' Brigade today stands the premier boys' movement in the world.

Its means are ingenious and appeal to all that a boy loves. By means of military drill and strict discipline is brings the superfluous energy of boys into subjection, and so guides that energy, that instead of it's being wasted in mischief and often harmful pleasure, it reacts upon the boy by way of gymnastics and athletics, and helps to build up a strong physical and moral body. No movement has yet been conceived that gets such a grip upon a boy. It appeals to all that is manly in him—he loves its discipline—and honors its principles. Those who have had any experience of boys knows the almost overwhelming difficulty of catching the boy at the 'teen age. This problem is the great question before our churches today. The cry of, "Why this leakage?" is almost becoming pathetic because of its repetition. The boy grows too old for Sunday School and is too often lost to the Church in consequence. The Boys' Brigade fills the gap between Sunday School and church membership as nothing has ever done. It offers the boy a religion that is practical. It gives him something that his heart longs for—a means of making a noise without looking foolish. It holds out to him a sympathetic hand and leads him over the pitfalls open to every boy, just when that help is most needed.

Thousands of men today bear testimony of the wonderful influence the Boys' Brigade has over lads. This was amply evidenced when recently its founder, Sir W. A. Smith, answered the last roll-call. Then it was not a family mourning, but from the King to the lowest subject, from India, America, Africa, and almost every part of the world, came messages and deepest sympathy, and tokens of highest appreciation of the work of Mr. Smith.

The Boys' Brigade is not a military organization, merely adopting military drill as a means of attaining discipline. Its object,

as put down in its constitution, is "the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect, and all that tends to a true Christian manliness." And this ideal it always puts first.

Prince Rupert is to be congratulated that it is the possessor of such a movement. Although small in numbers its influence will soon be felt. "Rome was not built in a day," nor can any organization become complete in a day. It is safe to say that no movement in the city more deserves the whole-hearted support of its citizens than the First Prince Rupert Company Boys' Brigade, and no two men deserve more sympathy in their work than Rev. H. R. Grant and Capt. R. McFarlane. If we save the boys, we save the men. H. F.

READJUSTMENT OF STRATEGIC PLAN May Follow as Result of Recent German Successes in Poland.

London, Dec. 12.—Despite the attempt, in some quarters, to minimize the German victory at Lodz, military experts admit its real importance. Lodz is the principal center for the manufacture of cloth for the Russian army uniforms and its occupation will compel Russians, more and more, to rely upon the West Riding of Yorkshire for cloth. They are now attempting to place large orders there. General Von Hindenberg's success there may indicate an entire readjustment of the German strategic plan. There is a possibility of the Germans recognizing their complete arrest on the western frontier and they may retire upon the enormously strong Rhine line of fortifications, concentrating their striking armies upon Russia. This plan, while presenting military advantages would, however, by such a humiliating admission of failure of the German western campaign, that it seems more probable that they will attempt to hold the present lines with greatly reduced forces, while withdrawing all possible men for Russia, which now becomes their principal field of operations.

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The Snow Was There Although It Was Not

Drawn for The Daily News by "Hop."

