

THE DAILY NEWS

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HEAD OFFICE

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DAILY EDITION

Friday, January 14, 1916.

MORAL CONSCRIPTION

Someone said the other day that the recruiting of 500,000 men of military-service age would mean moral conscription in Canada. So it would. And so it ought.

But moral conscription operates in Canada today. It is as compelling as legal conscription, more impartial in its draft and more insistent in its demands. Coercion by military law says "You must," and there is no escape unless one can dodge the officer or prove unfitness. Moral coercion is the constraint of one's own conscience; its straight word is "You ought." And there is no condition, no alternative. The officer of the law may be hoodwinked or a fast express may get you beyond his reach, but the moral monitor in a man's own conscience never blinks his eye or loses the scent. Take the holy orders of the Church, and he is there. Secure a government office through the patronage pull of the party boss, and, behold, he is there. Take a ticket and a passport to the loneliest island in the Southern Sea, and even there your own conscience will face you, and its moral imperative will dog your footsteps and haunt your dreams. There is only one way a man can escape when conscience says "You ought." It is to answer "I will."

No, perhaps that is not the only way. There is one alternative. It is the way of the moral suicide. When a man's inner sense of right and duty says "You ought," and the man draws back and says "I won't," there is committed the most appalling crime in all the calendar of the moral universe. It is the suicide of a soul. What that means your Bible, your Shakespeare, and your Dante try to tell. But its deepest

tragedy never can be told in words.

And that moral tragedy is only a little less terrible, the catastrophe it works may be only a little less desolating, when committed by one who has authority or control over another's will. When a young man answers what he holds to be his supreme duty with a loyal "I will" and someone else, with the authority either of parental command or of love's self-willed constraint, says "You shall not," there may follow tragedy more inglorious, more disastrous, than death on the field of battle. All along the ways of life are the wrecks of what might have been noble manhood—wrecked because recreant to duty, and recreant because of a parent's selfish ambition, or a wife's passionate entreaty, or a sweetheart's beseeching voice.

In a hundred different ways, in city and in country, in the church and in the school, in the home and in public service, the call for recruits to serve and to sacrifice for humanity's sake and for freedom means, and must inevitably mean, moral conscription in Canada. But he only is free who is Duty's willing conscript.—The Toronto Globe.

VALUABLE DISCOVERY OF PHOSPHATES IN EGYPT

It is announced that a valuable discovery has been made by certain New Zealand soldiers, who are farmers by profession, and whose attention has been drawn while serving in Egypt, to the immense natural supplies of phosphate. At Sofaja Bay, on the shores of the Red Sea, they have found what is claimed to be the richest phosphate field in the world. A trial shipment of 500 tons has been forwarded to New Zealand.—Ex.

A Million Mothers behind the purest, cleanest, most nutritious of all cereal foods—Shredded Wheat. They have tested it and found it best for youngsters, best for grown-ups—a food to work on, to play on, to think on. Contains the life of the wheat in a digestible form—puts gimp and ginger into the jaded body. Delicious for breakfast with milk or cream or for any meal. Made in Canada.



NOTES AND COMMENTS

If you look up the list of nominations in the Daily News for Monday you will notice that the first seven names mentioned are now members of the new council. Some coincidence.

The twentytwo aldermanic candidates were all perfectly satisfied with the result of the election, so everybody is happy once more.

The Empire of Wednesday said that it hoped The Daily News would be satisfied with the answer. IT IS.

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MIRACULOUS RECOVERY OF WOUNDED SOLDIERS

The case of the blind Canadian soldier whose sight was restored miraculously through the shock of being thrown into the sea from the torpedoed liner Hesperian is but one of many startling cases of marvellous recoveries which have occurred during the war.

A few months ago an entertainer was giving a performance before wounded soldiers in a Bristol hospital, when Corporal Stevens, of the 2nd King's Royal Rifles, who had been rendered deaf and dumb in Flanders, suddenly burst into loud laughter, and to the amazement of doctors and nurses showed that he had miraculously recovered his speech and hearing.

In another case a man who had been rendered deaf and dumb through the bursting of a shell at Mons suddenly recovered speech through the pain brought about by placing his hand on a hot water pipe in the corridor of the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital at Millbank. In the same hospital Lance-Corporal Fowkes, of the 18th Hussars, who was rendered blind at Mons, and whose case was regarded as hopeless by the surgeons, received special X-ray treatment with the result that he regained his sight.

Recently Corporal Leonard, who was bereft of hearing and speech went to a cinema show at Liverpool. As the film revealed the antics of the well-known comedian Billie Ritchie, the risible faculties of the soldier were touched. He felt a burning in his throat and a painful drumming in his ears, which seemed about to burst. Then, to his agreeable surprise, he heard a shout and found that it was his own voice.—Ex.

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