MICKIE, THE PRINTER'S DEVIL

By Charles Sughroe
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"Don't Mention It in the Paper"

THE SOLDIER BONUS
(To The Citizen)

I noticed an editorial in The Citizen published February 23, 1922, under the above capiton, in which the editor gives his views on the much-discussed question of paying a bonus to the ex-service men who served in the World War.

He asks, "What does the United States owe the ex-soldier of the World War?" First, let me say, that the United States owes to these ex-soldiers an acknowledgement of the fact that had it not been for the men who left their homes, their loved ones, their jobs, their ambitions, and all that life held dear to them, and faced and defeated the deadly Hun at Chateau-Thierry, Vinny Ridge, Second Battle of the Marne, St. Mihiel and the Argonne forest, Germany would now have been in complete control of Europe and rapidly preparing, if not already prepared, to wage the most terrible war ever conceived in the mind of mortal man on "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

Instead of going to France to see the terrible destruction and horror of war, we would in all probability have been forced to see our own coast, cities, and farms utterly destroyed and our women and children murdered, without mercy, as they were in stricken Belgium and Armenia. When the American people get these truths thoroly planted in their minds, it will go a long ways toward showing them their true relation to the ex-service men.

Next he asks, "Is patriotism so cheap and on such a low plane of value as to be compensated for by a small monetary consideration?" As an ex-service man I say no, but any right-thinking man knows that the proposed Soldiers' Bonus bill was never intended to be thought of as a price for patriotism, but was advocated as a means of giving the man who served his country at $1.00 per day a chance to get on his feet financially so that he may be able to compete with other men who stayed at home and received fabulous prices for their work. While unskilled laborers were getting $5.00 to $8.00 per day and mechanics, electricians, motor men, carpenters, blacksmiths, painters, etc., were getting $8.00 to $20.00 per day and clerks in government employ, stenographers, etc., were getting unheard of prices, there were thousands of men in government service doing these same lines of work and doing them fully as well and receiving $1.00 per day. Railroad employes received sky high wages while the U. S. government owned extensive railroads in France operated by soldiers who received only the army pay ($1.00 per day).

When the soldier was discharged he was paid a bonus of $60.00, which under the high prices which prevailed at that time would not buy a decent outfit of civilian clothes, to say nothing of tiding him over until he could find employment, and thousands of discharged men were unable to find employment for many months. The great host of civilian employes who were employed by the government during the war were paid salaries ranging anywhere from $100.00 to $200.00 per month, or even more, and when Uncle Sam got thru with them, they were paid a bonus which was five or six times the amount paid to the soldiers at time of discharge.

Attention is also called to the fact that "Beside the many millions of people who sacrificed and did their bit, there are at least four million other men who were on the draft list and were waiting for their call to go into service as others had gone." This is all true, but while these were waiting for their call they were holding down their jobs at prices which were in many cases five times as much as the soldier received. The bonus is not a price for patriotism but an honest attempt to give the men who served the flag a standing financially with those who did not.

Soon after the close of the Revolutionary War our government gave to America's greatest foreign friend, Lafayette, a large sum of money and a large territory of land in token of gratitude for his help in our time of need—but we never heard the gift referred to as a "price of patriotism."

During the World War 18,000 brand new millionaries sprang into being in the United States among the men who stayed at home, but I have as yet my first ex-soldier to meet who had as much as $500.00 in cash at the time of his discharge. Then he attempts to gain the sympathy and support of all his readers by making a plea in behalf of the disabled ex-service men and the ones whose education was interrupted by military service. These arguments are absolutely without foundation as any one can readily see when they look up the facts in the case. Being a disabled veteran myself, and having just spent three months in the hospital under government treatment and having read the American Legion Weekly and other sources of information on the care of disabled ex-service soldiers, I know that everything possible is being done for the men who were disabled in service. He says the government should find the men who were in school when they were called into service and bear their expenses in school for a period equal to their time in service. That sounds rather good, as he intended it should, but he or any other well informed citizen knows that the proposed bonus bill consists of five different options, of which the ex-soldier may have his choice, and that one of these gives him vocational training, if he wishes to finish his education—and it is a well known fact that vocational training covers any branch of study which

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ing and grazing and the forest service was established to administer them. The Interior department retained control of the remaining public lands and the ten national parks established for recreational purposes. In the national forests the Interior department is charged with the execution of all laws "relating to surveying, prospecting, locating, appropriating, entering, reconveying or patenting of public lands and to the granting of rights of way amounting to easements." The national forests now number 168 in 21 states and territories and contain about 242,200 square miles. The national parks now number 19 and contain 10,859 square miles.

The national park service was created in 1916 to administer the national parks under the secretary of the interior. The Agricultural department then began a campaign in print, and from the platform, for the transfer of the national park service to the Agricultural department. It also set up the national forests as recreational rivals of the national parks.

Then came the proposed reorganization of the executive departments, approved by the President. Under this reorganization, the Interior department would become practically a public works department. One contemplated transfer is that of the forest service from the Agricultural department.

On top of this came the concern about the plight of Alaska, which is not prospering. "Too much bureaucratic government" was one cry that was raised. It is now proposed to take Alaska out of the hands of the many bureaus and hand it over to the Interior department for administration and development. The secretary is already building the government Alaskan railroad and controls the oil and mineral deposits in the national forests. The two big national forests in Alaska are the Tongass and Chugac, containing 220,000 acres. Secretary Fall approves this disposition of Alaska. It has been announced that President Harding will visit Alaska this summer to get first-hand information. It was planned that Secretary Fall should be in the presidential party.

Naturally the Department of Agriculture is not pleased with this program. The American Forestry association has sent out much "literature" protesting against it. Some of it is pretty strong. The gist of it is that the transfer of the national forests means their exploitation by "private interests." Anyway, Secretary Fall says he is being held up to "execration, public abuse and private calumny."

THE United States has formally declined the invitation of the allied powers to participate in the European financial and economic conference which is now set for April 10 at Genoa. The declination runs from Secretary of State Hughes to the Italian ambassador, Senator Ricci. The document is a gem of purest ray serene. The language is friendly, the statements are plain, the meaning unmistakable. In diplomatic terms he says that the conference is not primarily economic but is rather a conference of a political character in which the United States cannot helpfully participate. "Nothing doing. See you later. Wishing you good luck, I remain, etc."—is about the way it would read in the vernacular. Of course Europe is disappointed. It is generally admitted that the absence of the United States will detract from the usefulness of the conference. But if Europe will not hold the kind of conference in which the United States can helpfully participate, it must not expect us unnecessarily to become involved in European questions. Better luck next time, maybe, when things get down to brass tacks.

LLOYD GEORGE resigning the British premiership doesn't fit in with American notions of the little Welsh wizard. But either he had it seriously in mind—or he ran a gorgeous bluff. Anyway, he served an ultimatum on the Tory leaders of the coalition party that unless he could be assured of loyal support and co-operation he would resign. Whereupon all Britain buzzed like a disturbed beehive. Sir Arthur Balfour was named everywhere as the probable successor. But the coalition chiefs got busy at once. Sir George Younger, the union jack "die-hard" leader, was made to step back into the line; it was his speeches that had forced the issue. Other leaders publicly voiced their confidence in the premier. Balfour, as a conservative leader, put the finishing touch by declaring emphatically for a continuance of the coalition government and indorsing the leadership of Lloyd George, who he declared was incomparably the greatest figure of the greatest age in British history. So the crisis has apparently been passed—though possibly only for the present.

Sir Arthur, by the way, is very much in the British public eye just now. King George has bestowed upon him a knighthood of the Order of the Garter. His achievements at the Washington arms conference are universally acclaimed as regaining for Great Britain the world dominance lost during the World war. Anyhow, in declaring for Lloyd George he bowed himself out of the premiership.

CANADA'S fourteenth parliament was opened Wednesday by Governor-General Byng. W. L. Mackenzie King is the first liberal prime minister to hold the reins of government since Sir Wilfred Laurier was defeated ten years ago on his policy of reciprocity with the United States. Premier King is a veteran of the Laurier ministry of 1911, in which he served as minister of labor. Rodolphe Lemieux of Montreal, selected by Premier King, is speaker. The government commands about one-half of the members of parliament. The official opposition group, numbering about fifty in a house of 235 members, is led by Arthur Meighen, the defeated premier. T. A. Crerar leads an unofficial progressive group of about 65, who are expected to support the government in most of its policies, especially on the tariff. Both liberals and progressives believe in customs duties "for revenue only," as against the conservative policy of protection. Who said "reciprocity?"

FIUME is on the map again and seems to be trying to rival Vesuvius. The Fascisti and their adherents have chased out President Zanella of the Free City government set up under the treaty of Rapallo between Italy and Jugo-Slavia. Gabrielle d'Annunzio has sent word that he supports the "uprising." The Italian parties have chosen Giovanni Giuriati, former chief of the poet-warrior's cabinet, as head of another provisional government for the Free State. The Jugo-Slavs are rushing troops to the frontier, ostensibly to repel threatened raids by the Fascisti. They are insisting upon observance of the treaty of Rapallo. Italy apparently intends to restore order in Fiume and enforce the Rapallo treaty. She also has moved troops forward.

MAX says he isn't marrying Mathilde for her money. Mathilde began the romance at eleven by calling Max "Uncle." Max has taught Mathilde the "Swiss language." Let the wedding bells ring out and the Swiss navy fire a salute!

"Politics makes strange bedfellows" which is to say that the new treaty gives Yap prohibition, with Americans exempted.

William Jennings Bryan, crusading against Darwinism, says nobody can make a monkey of him. Mr. Bryan is a self-made man.

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