

THE ST. JOHNS REVIEW

A. W. Markle, Editor
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Mr. and Mrs. James Dickson, of North St. Johns, have received a letter from a sister in Ayr, Scotland, in which she says:
Times are very hard here now as food stuffs are so dear and scarce. We are rationed with nearly everything. We get half a pound of sugar, one ounce of tea and a quarter pound of margarine or butter per head, per week, and so on. Are you rationed like that in America? My third son left for France on the 2nd of April. I had a letter from him this morning and he is lying at the Base. My eldest son has been wounded again on the left arm and is suffering from shell shock. He is the one who won the Military medal of Honor last July. John is out of the trenches meantime for a rest. I had a letter from him tonight. My daughter, Margaret's husband, is in Egypt. We have a fine type of American lads here in Ayr—fine strapping soldiers they make. They came over about three months ago. Have you any friends among them? There is an aerodrome here just ten minutes walk from where we stay, and they go buzzing about all day long. I counted 23 up this morning.

One of the most original ideas for the social benefit of the employees in Portland's shipyards has been conceived at the Peninsula shipyard. It is the erection of a large amphitheater on a steep hillside, with a platform at the base on which will be held exhibitions of boxing, wrestling, and other athletic programs, speaking, band concerts, etc. The seating capacity will comfortably care for 1100 men, the number at present employed in the yards. The amphitheater is away from the working yards and will give the men a chance to eat and smoke during the rest hour without any risk of fire. Already work has been commenced on the structure and it will be ready for occupancy within the next week. The company has donated the material used and the men are doing the work. In point of originality, the new amphitheater will be the equal of anything yet built in the shipyards for the convenience of the shipcookers. Efforts will be made to interest some of the uptown theatrical managers with the view of putting on a vaudeville performance once or twice a week.

Additions provided for at the Grant Smith Porter Company's St. Johns plant include the erection of a new administration building, on the north line of the tract, the present headquarters alongside the main gate being given over to various purposes. The new building will be two stories and cover ground space 90 feet long and 10 feet wide. Most of the space will be utilized for the office and hospital, while a special building for the timekeepers, 90 feet long and 10 feet wide, will be provided.

Mrs. Fred Haskell has received a letter from her son, Glen D. Haskell, from across the water, in which he says: I arrived safe and am well, and things are better here than I expected them to be. We had no weather all but one day, and that day we were had some storm. We have good barracks and also good cats. You don't know how glad we were to get on land after being on the water so long. We have the best treatment we can expect to have.

A. R. Church, 63 years old, plumbing foreman in the shipyard at the Peninsula Shipbuilding company, in St. Johns, was killed Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock when he slipped and fell about 10 feet from the deck of one of the vessels undergoing construction. His skull was fractured. Although fatally injured Church regained his feet and managed to walk a few steps before he fell over. He died a few moments later. Church had been an employe of the shipbuilding company ever since it was first organized. While discussing the work with one of the foremen he stepped backward a few steps and missed the ladder leading to the lower deck. He rolled over twice in his fall and struck on his head. He resided at 428 East Eighth street and is survived by a widow, brother, Ed. J. Church, and two sisters, Mrs. Eliza J. Morris and Mrs. S. G. Lawson. The funeral will be held at 1 p. m. today at Holman's.—Journal.

Why don't you make some pictures and send them to the soldiers. Currin Says So.

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The Use of Slang

The following excellent paper was read at the W. C. T. U. meeting recently by Mrs. Mary K. Kelley:
Slang—We first ask what does slang mean? Webster tells us a low and inelegant, but often expressive form of colloquial language. Many words which originate as slang finally take their place in the language of literature and speech. Is it because slang is something modern that we bring this subject before you? No; for if we but search we can find slang phrase in many of our books of reading. Chaucer uses "come off," and "go sit down." Shakespeare has "not in it." Sheridan has "cut it out." The list may be prolonged and when all examples are put together one begins to doubt whether all new slang is not old slang writ large. Slang is not as modern as we think; it has been in use hundreds of years ago. One writer tells us the slang phrase "by the skin of his teeth" that is in use at this day and age, came from the Scripture Job 19:20. If we note the expression used here it is not meant as slang, but from this one example we can understand how necessary it is for us to watch our speech. Sometimes slang does not take form in words, but lies in facial expression, a wink of gesture, a whistle. It is one of the critical stages of language, and it is constantly in the focus of our attention. Slang is the melting pot of language; we learn our idiom if we try to handle it without sense of humor and an intimate knowledge of its ways. Mr. Max Eastman says literary professors are the sworn enemies of slang, they tell us that we use a slang word merely because we are too lazy to think up the correct word. Why do we hesitate to evade our words to meet our needs? It is a non-sense question. There is no reason. We are simply careless. We let our vocabulary be limited and get along rawly without enrichment in our thoughts. For thoughts are as dependent on words as words on thoughts. We do not consider whether our words may not be rather displeasing, annoying, offensive, disgusting and irritating. As Mr. Prudhomme spoke prose without knowing it, so do we all speak slang. An elderly woman, one of the old school, with a proper scorn of our modern brevity was heard to exclaim, "Well, if that isn't the limit," and believed it inconceivable that so convenient a word phrase was slang. A lady used the expression "Gee." It has not occurred to her that this was taking the name of the Lord in vain, and probably few of the many who indulge in sugar coated profanity realize that they are using careless language. What is "Gee" though but a substitute expression of Jesus. There are other phrases too numerous to mention and you will every day hear people using them thoughtlessly, who would be shocked by a genuine oath. In warfare we have ceased poisoning wells, and we shall not much longer poison food, yet we still allow phrases to pass current among us which are more deadly than malaria and typhoid fever. Slang is the great corrupting matter. It is perishable itself and corrupts what is round it, order and uniformity in language are desirable qualities, we should and do seek them ever. The prejudice against this form of speech is to be encouraged, for the prejudice against slang has its victories. Let anyone who wants to see himself grow, resolve to adopt the proper

Annual Memorial Day

For several years it has been the custom of the various Camps of the M. W. A. to observe the first Sunday in June as their Annual Memorial Day, at which time appropriate exercises are held in the hall of each Camp or in some house of worship nearby, after which committees are sent to various cemeteries to decorate the graves of the deceased members.
In keeping with this custom the local Camp is making arrangements to observe this custom in a fitting manner next Sunday, June 2nd. All members are notified to assemble at the M. W. A. hall over the St. Johns Hardware Store at 10:30 o'clock sharp Sunday morning, where short ritualistic services will be held, after which a line of march will be formed and the lodge will adjourn in a body to the Christian church where Rev. H. F. Jones will deliver the memorial sermon to the members, their families and friends. All members are requested to bring flowers to the hall not later than 10:30 o'clock a. m. Immediately after the services at the church committees will adjourn to the various cemeteries and decorate the graves of the members who have passed beyond the river. St. Johns Camp M. W. A. was organized July 15th, 1902, by Deputy Head Consul C. H. Tanager. The following is a list of the charter members: J. W. Arnold, C. F. Baily, C. W. Bolen, W. B. Brynn, W. S. Calkin, Robert Catlin, C. A. Cook, C. D. Edwards, R. W. Gilliam, C. A. Johnson, F. W. Johnson, S. W. Lyons, H. E. Knight, W. H. Moxen, J. F. Poff, A. T. Reed, G. A. Rice, A. B. Scott, W. A. Scott, H. S. Simmons, B. H. Smithy, H. W. Smith, P. A. Smith, E. F. Taylor, F. W. Valentine, J. W. Voelker, C. L. Miner and E. W. Rosalter.

Since organization many new names have been added to the roster. In fact, during the past two years there have been but few meetings that there has not been new candidates taken into the mysteries of Woodcraft. The grim reaper has summoned Peter Mahm, S. W. Weeks, J. K. Weeks, G. W. Dunbar and C. D. Russell to the great beyond and their lives will fondly linger in memory's hall and their deeds will sweep on like a mighty river which ever broadens until it kisses the sea. Some day the influence of these lives will touch eternity's shore and then we shall meet and know them again.—Reported.

words each week, it will not be long before the endless and enchanting variety of words will begin to reflect itself in his speech and mind as well. The small shocks of our increasing vocabulary will in all probability be as helpful to our friends as to ourselves. As people acquire education the tendency of speech is toward formality, recognized observances, phrases and expressions that have been sanctioned and established. It is the lower base uneducated world that seeks the short cut and uses the most convenient word tool at hand. Vulgar and profane words need no defense, for the want of decency is the want of sense.

Memorial Day was quietly and appropriately observed in St. Johns. General Compton Post No. 22, G. A. R. formed at their hall at 10:30 in the morning, and the procession consisted of Boy Scouts, school children, G. A. R. Post, W. R. C. and Ladies of G. A. R. The procession marched to the public square at Philadelphia and Burlington streets, where the impressive Memorial services were held. An address was delivered by Milton A. Miller, who spoke of Oregon's fitting tribute to her departed heroes and of the tasks which now confront her in her new struggle for freedom. Lincoln's Gettysburg address was read by Commander Chambers. Lunch was partaken of at the Post Hall, where speeches, music and readings took place.

A dispatch from the naval training camp at Seattle to a Portland daily says: That men of the Pacific Northwest are finding the Naval Training Camp at Seattle an interesting and comfortable place in which to begin their war service, is demonstrated by the number of recruits coming in every day. Portland sends its share and although men are leaving this camp daily, for service aboard ship, there are 49 Portland boys in camp. Heading the list is H. J. Davis, Chief Electrician in the Naval Reserve Force, who has charge of the Eighth Company at camp. Before coming here he was engaged in electrical work in Portland for years. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Davis, of St. Johns.

Note the label on your paper.

Two San Francisco negroes were discussing the possibilities of being drafted. "Tain't gwine do 'em any good to pick on me," said Lemuel sulkily. "Ah certainly ain't gwine do any fightin'. Ah ain't lost nothin' oveh in France. Ah ain't got any quarrel with anybody and Uncle Sam can't make me fight." Jim pondered over this statement for a moment. "You're right," he said at length. "Uncle Sam kaint make you fight. But he can take you where de fightin' is, and after that you kin use you' own judgement."—Ex.

Joe Adams, a young lad about 13 years of age, was knocked down by an auto last Friday morning, on South Jersey street, it is reported. He was taken to Dr. Gilstrap & Seely's office, where it was found that outside of several cuts and bruises he was not seriously injured.

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