

Guns thrown into Sea at Stonehaven.

SIMILAR INCIDENT AT CULTER ENDS IN COURT.

Some considerable excitement was caused in Stonehaven, when a large crowd of ex-service men and others dragged one of the Germans guns which were placed in the Cowie Park down to the harbour, and pushed it into the water, afterwards taking it out again, and dragging it up to the Black Hill they dropped it into the sea.

They also took one from the back of the Town Hall, and dragging it up the Aberdeen Road threw it over the cliffs at Cowie.

Gun Dumping at Culter.

The decision of the military authorities to prosecute persons guilty of damage in connection with gun-dumping incidents, which have been so prominent in the north, was made known definitely in the Aberdeen Sheriff Court on Monday, when Sheriff Young severely reprimanded Wm. Anderson, an ex-Royal Army Service Corps private, for the part he took in dumping a German gun gifted by the War Office authorities to the village of Culter, in the River Dee. Accused admitted that he had taken part in hauling the gun through the village.

The village constable, the Procurator Fiscal stated, had been an officer in the army, and when the crowd were removing the gun he asked them if any of them had ever taken part in the capture of enemy artillery. Accused stepped forward, and said he had done so, but that was false, because he had been in the Royal Army Service Corps and had never seen "No Man's Land" until it was captured. The Sheriff remarked that the case which had been stated was the first of its kind, and would serve as a warning to others. Accused would be dismissed on condition that he made good the damage done.

War Trophies.

A letter was submitted from the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Aberdeen intimating that a number of War Trophies had been placed at his disposal for distribution to parishes within the County Area who wished a supply. It was unanimously agreed to have nothing to do with them.

The Mearns Leader.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1918.

Round the County Town.

Our Tank Response.

Stonehaven's response to the Tank week appeal will go down to posterity as an outstanding testimony to the patriotic generosity of her inhabitants. Without any tangible incentive except the few soaring aeroplanes (which are no novelty to Stonehaven folk) we have subscribed a sum which is worthy of the capital of the Mearns. While the various War Savings Associations have risen nobly to the occasion the large investor has also done his bit in no stinted fashion. In this connection special mention must be made of the firm of Messrs William Mowat and Sons, Carron Tank Works, who invested to the extent of £5000, and also to Mr James Mowat, Carron Lodge, whose contribution was £1000. A gratifying feature of the Tank week locally was the large number of working-class investments which it drew forth. The working class of the community seem to have realised that their mite is as highly prized as the gold of the most prosperous.

What It Will Accomplish

Huge and worthy though the £21000 is, however, it is a distinct shock to the mind to be told that it will keep the war going only for so many minutes! Indeed, Aberdeen's huge total keeps our tremendous expenditure running for considerably less than half a day! But our generosity should not be measured on such a colossal scale; for, after all, the struggle in which we are at present engaged is not being payed for in hard cash. The hard cash part of the business will pay up unpleasantly in the future, but sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof, and it cannot be gainsaid that the moral effect of what the Tank has accomplished both locally and generally will be felt through every fibre of the nation. Our enemies, too, will feel the wound of our whole-hearted response.

The Children's Part.

Credit should also be given to the organisers of the School efforts, and to the children themselves whose early tendencies to thrift have thus been so usefully and effectively stimulated. As will be seen from our report of the week's effort the Fetteresso children managed to contribute no less than £130, while the Dunrobert scholars gave £35. When it is borne in mind that these sums were built up by means of very small individual contributions it will be readily admitted that thanks are due to the "bairns" for the part they bore in achieving the success already mentioned.

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WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Result of Competition.

Thousands of replies were received to the question put last week—What would you do? The conscientious objector, faced by an angry Hun, was in a dreadful predicament, but our readers were in no doubt as to what they would do in similar circumstances. The prize-list is as follows:—

£2—David B. Alexander, 166 Great Hamilton Street, Glasgow—

"Up with gun, down with Hun, duty done,
V.C. won."

£1—John Fenton, Kennoway Road, Windygates, Fife—

"I doubt my 'soul' efforts would be to 'convert' the Hun into an 'angel.'"

FIVE SHILLINGS.

William Jackson, c/o Robertson, 27½ Mount Street, Aberdeen—"I'd take the 'Sturdee' end of my gun and 'Beatty's' ribs in, as sure as my name is 'Jockson.'" John Faulds, 29 Gardiner Street, Lochgelly—"My conscience I'd stifle, and make good use of the rifle." Mary P. Kerr, c/o Millar, Woodside, Letham, Forfarshire—"I would show a 'stern' aspect." J. Ironside, 81 Queen Street, Peterhead—

"Conscience go hang! Let bang." Murdo A. Cameron, Kiltarlity, Beauly, Inverness-shire—

"Forego' my objections and 'go for' the Hun." J. A. Macgregor, 32 Hawthornvale, Leith—"To 'engineer' an escape I'd crack him over the 'nut' and 'bolt.'"

HALF-CROWNS.

Francis Buttar, Damend, Meigle—"Remove restrictions on convictions, and go in for bayonet inflictions." Mrs James F. Wood, Ivy Bank, West Cults, Aberdeenshire—"Give him my 'conscience claws.'" W. D. Mitchell, 4 Wolseley Street, Dundee—

"Rifle butt, smashed 'nut,' then cut, hot 'fut.'" Mrs M'Lean, Lymphoy, Currie, Midlothian—"My conscience won't allow me to shoot him, but I'd make him a free holder to a piece of ground with a bayonet on it (bayonet)."

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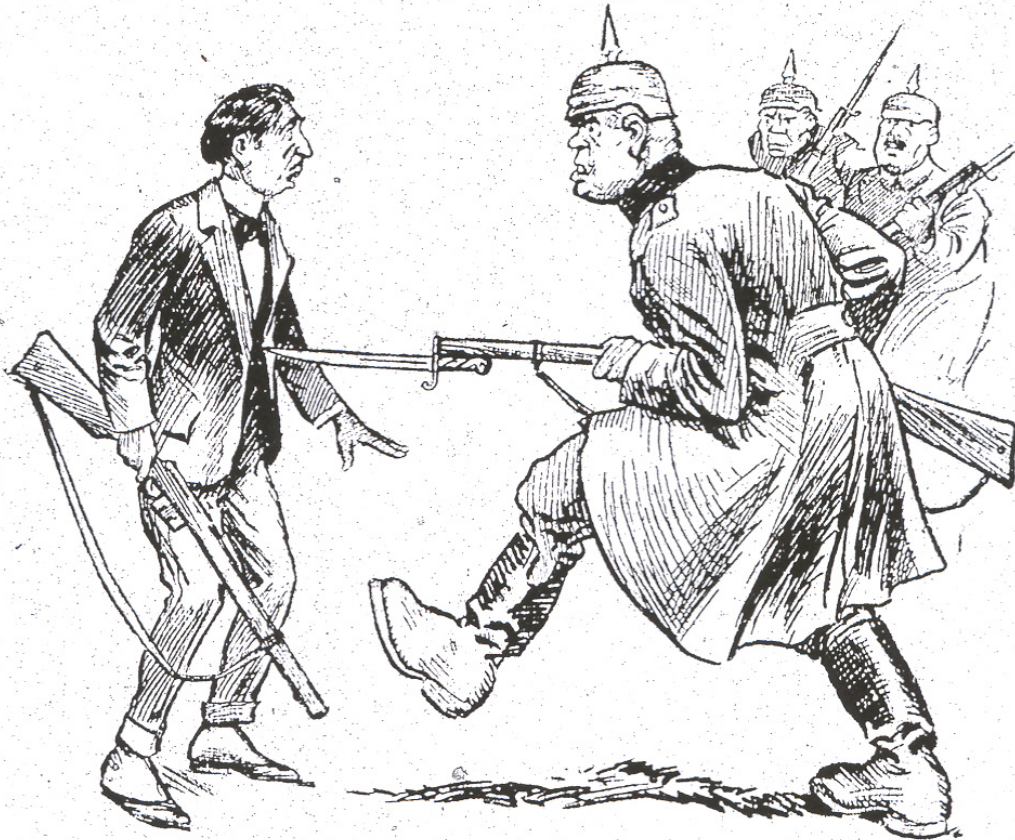
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HERE'S A PRETTY KETTLE OF FISH!

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?



Here is a conscientious objector in a quandary. He has run up against a snag, as the Americans say. But though he is armed, his convictions will not allow him to defend himself or take human life. **WHAT WOULD YOU DO IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES?**

Answer

MARCH 25.

Name

Address

Make your answer as pointed and as humorous as you can. You may send as many replies as you please, but write each in a coupon cut from this week's "People's Journal," and post to 8 Bank Street, Dundee, to reach us not later than Tuesday morning, marking your envelope "Problem."

PRIZES: £2, £1, Six of 5/-, and Four of 2/6.

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Names on
Memorial
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Rev. Mr Swan brought up the question of ladies names being put on the memorial and the date of previous minutes having been referred to the Committee resolved that these should ^{not} be admitted as the Memorial was only for men who had fallen.

Salaries of
Secretary
Treasurer

Mr Melne moved that the salaries of the Secretary and Treasurer be fixed at £2's each per annum which was ~~seconded~~ seconded by Mr Colark and unanimously agreed to.

James A Catto
Chairman

Sacrilege.

It has been brought to our notice that some malicious person, or persons, has damaged one or two letters on the Stone of Remembrance in the War Memorial on the Black Hill. The letters have evidently been scraped with a pocket-knife. Such an act is an act of sacrilege, of vandalism, and any person knowing the perpetrator of this outrage should immediately report the matter to the proper authorities. The Memorial is a sacred erection to be held in trust for all time by the people of Stonehaven in memory of those who died, and it might be well if such conduct as we complain of were promptly dealt with.

1918 had now been increased to four.

These were read to the meeting a letter dated 18th February 1919 from the Secretary, War Trophies Committee, War Office, London, intimating that the Committee had agreed to offer to the Council for safe custody and care one German machine gun, damaged, one German machine gun ammunition box and one German machine gun ammunition belt. It was agreed to accept these.

TOWN COUNCIL.—At the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, a letter was read from the clerk to the Lord Lieutenant of County, asking the Council to submit claim for (if they wished) captured German rifles, pistols, machine guns, trench mortars etc. It was remitted to Councillors J. Wilkie and J. Masson, to consider what should be done. Some considerable amusement was caused also during the hour sitting, by a butterfly, commonly known 'Red Admiral' flying about the council room. It had all the appearance of being a grown specimen, and it would be interesting to know the reason of its appearance there on the 10th of December.

GERMAN GUNS AT STONEHAVEN.—The three German guns, which have been sent to Stonehaven for exhibition, and arrived at the Market Square on Wednesday, are attracting large crowds. It is understood that they are to be placed in front of the County Buildings in a few days.

THE SAME CAUSE.

There appears to be some little controversy as to "whose name" shall be engraved on the stone of remembrance which is to form the central part of our War Memorial. Each name submitted is being investigated by the committee, and while a large number of names have an indisputable right to be included in the list, there are a number of names with local associations who are considered doubtful by the committee. Undoubtedly in such a sacred cause as this a good deal of latitude must be allowed and the committee will be forgiven if, in their desire to include all who made the sacrifice, they engrave a name which has but slight claim to the right. Many men were employed in Stonehaven at the outbreak of war, and went from Stonehaven to answer the call to arms, and it was probably to Stonehaven that they would have returned, had the fates been so kind. They made the supreme sacrifice, however, and it is but their due that Stonehaven should honour them. Other names there are of men, natives of the town, who went elsewhere to live, and whose names should also be included in the list of honour, while there are others who are connected by marriage who have equal claims. The aim of the committee charged with the task, should be to ensure that every name with the least claim to the privilege is included on the stone, rather than to strike any name off because of "insufficient connection with the town."