**The Thompsonville Press**

The “Press” has a larger circulation in the territory between Hartford and Springfield than Any other newspapers – It Pays to advertise in it.

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**TIMELY SUGGESTIONS ON LOCAL PATRIOTISM**

OUTLOOK NOT ENCOURAGING

In the Most Discouraging and Disheartening Year of Its History the Town of Enfield. Is Confronted With the Most Serious Financial Crisis in Its Experience.

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The comments in last week's Press on the town budget for the coming year offer abundant food for thought. It is to be hoped that a perusal of the articles will stimulate a train of thought in the mind of every tax payer in the town that will be fruitful in results. In the most discouraging and disheartening, year of its history the town of Enfield is confronted with the most serious financial crisis in its experience. Conditions were never worse from the view point of the tax payer. Never during its existence has our town stood in greater need of honest, disinterested, nonpartisan, earnest consideration from its intelligent and capable advisors.

Patriotism as generally applied and understood suggests love of country, loyalty to and firm belief in the great principles "of democracy upon which our nation is founded. In, this sense we are proud to be considered loyal, we proclaim our loyalty loudly on every and all occasions. But while we extol and honor this brand of patriotism let us not forget that there is an other, a more intimate, one that, in a way, touches us more nearly, a local patriotism, And I hold that the citizen who possesses local patriotism to the full, who places local welfare before party consideration, who singles out an supports the men of whom his honest judgment approves, who is willing to devote effort and thought to further the affairs of his home town, makes the very best of all patriots.

Few towns are affected more unfavorably by war conditions than Enfield. We are making absolutely nothing demanded by the nations at war. The product of our great carpet corporation, such a solid dependence in times of peace, is, in the final analysis, a luxury, and rising values have put it in the class of exclusive luxuries. The inflated wages of the numerous war industries with which we are surrounded have lured away many of our workers. Our rural population is struggling with the problems of high wages, increased cost of fertilizers, feed, seeds and implements. Our merchants are depressed by poor business conditions. Out of this gloomy picture, in the year of all years when we are least able to pay, we are confronted with the specter of a, seventeen mill tax.

It serves no good purpose to go into details of reason and causes; we are face to face with a condition of the, gravest import. It is a time for the best thought of the best minds. Every, tax payer, every citizen of our town should make' a careful study of that budget as interesting him individually and as it affects the future of our town. It is a time to show local patriotism, to enroll as a local patriot. It is very possible that all the items in that budget are not absolutely necessary. Individuals are denying themselves, are going without things, are postponing to a better time, possibly the town can do the same. How many of us are turning the old rugs around, are putting off the painting of the house, postponing repairs? How many of us are looking over the old suits and getting busy with cleaning preparations? How many families are holding solemn conclaves discussing ways and means?

Let us treat our town just as fairly as we are treating our own business and family. Let us exercise the same good judgment in town affairs as we try to use in our private business. As a town we must spend just as little money as possible during the coming year; as local patriots we must make up our minds to submit with patience and resignation to conditions made necessary by a retrenchment that is imperatively demanded.

DR. GEO. F. FINCH.

. NO HANDS, WORKS

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Maimed Soldier Goes Home and Learns to Do Things

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Designs and Manufactures Apparatus Which Enable Him Almost to Ignore His Mutilation.

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One French farm is being cultivated by a former soldier who lost both hands in the war. Jean Baptiste Ledrans is the man who has overcome this handicap. When war was declared Ledrans was a young handy mechanic, accustomed to repairing plows and reapers. At the call to arms he rejoined his battery as a cavalry sergeant. He distinguished himself by manning a bomb mortar and advancing with the infantry to the attack of a strong redoubt. This exploit earned him the rank of under-lieutenant.

After fighting safely through many battles, Ledrans was wounded near Arras and upon his recovery was transferred to the infantry, says a correspondent of the Chicago News. In his new position the young underofficer, because of his mechanical ability, was assigned to the grenade section; where he soon became proficient. Finally he became an instructor.

It was while instructing some young soldiers, about to leave for the front, that Ledrans received his terrible wounds. A new recruit produced an experimental grenade from his pocket and gave it to Ledrans. The instructor began his lesson, releasing the fuse lighter which, unfortunately, was connected with a loaded grenade, and not one as used in practice. The grenade exploded, killing six men and wounding several others. Ledrans was pounded in five places; a rib broken, right eye put out, one eardrum pierced and his two hands carried away.

This was in 1916. In spite of his injuries, Ledrans' fiancee remained faithful, and two months later received a letter written by her future husband. In January, 1917, they were married and Ledrans is now cultivating his father-in-law's farm.

Putting his ingenuity to practical use, the former soldier has been able to design and build apparatus which enable him-almost to ignore his mutilation. He can hitch up and drive a horse, driving by sitting on the loop of the lines and guiding with his arranged forearms. He can load and unload the wagon, care for

the horse and manage a team as well. The whip passes through a ring in the right arm equipment.

By means of a special harness Ledrans can work in the fields as well as anyone. A steel plate strapped on the body, and supplemented with leathers for the arms, support the interchangeable tools which are needed to perform various operations of farm work. On the left arm is carried a ring through which the handle of the rake or shovel slides like through the hand. The right arm is equipped with a socket and set screws in which the tools t can be placed and fixed. There is a complete assortment of farm tools and special hooks. The farm soldier takes off his "working arms, and his wife adjusts a pair of elastic gloves which accommodate the smaller articles of dally use. With these gloves Ledrans can write, shave, eat and dress himself. He drinks by taking the cup between the two elastic gloves. Combing his hair, brushing his teeth and adjusting his collar become simple operations to this injured man, who has solved, for himself, one of the great problems of the war.

Letters from our Soldier Boys

**STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART**

A Few of the Many Expressions of Appreciation From the Boys in Khaki Who Were Remembered by the Red Gross and Town Committee

The Press has a large number of letters from the "boys in khaki," all expressing heartfelt appreciation of the remembrance of them by their townsfolk through the comfort kits sent out by the local Red Cross. The letters speak for themselves. More will be published next week.

**Letter From George Chalyin.**

Great Lakes Naval Training Sta., Sept. 8, 1917.

Gentlemen: This is to let you know that I received the comfort kit you sent me sate and sound. I thank each and every member of the committee and all-those connected with it for the most useful and practical combination of necessities and even luxuries that the bag contained.

A certain mother wrote to me recently saying that we boys couldn't realize how much it meant to the folks at home to hear from us and urged that we drop a message, no matter how small, whenever it was possible.

That condition reversed applies equally as well. You folks at home cannot imagine how very much it means to us to know that you are all interested in our welfare and stand ready to do anything that you can to make it easier for us while we are away from the comforts and security of home and friends. Let me say that those who had to do with the selections of the articles contained in the kits showed fine judgment and it seems that they acted on experience.

I'm sure that every boy who is fortunate enough to get hold of one will be overflowing with thanks to you and will be more than ever pleased that he comes from Thompsonville-where they don't forget the boys. Thankfully and sincerely, C. Geo. Chalyin

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**Only One to Receive Kit.**

To the Editor of the Press:

I would like very much to thank the Thompsonville Red Cross society through The Press for their comfort-kit that I received today. It 'made me feel" very good when I opened my package and took that bag out with the cross on the side; it .certainly makes a; fellow feel proud of his little village and the good work that is being done to help the boys in the service. In reading “The Press"\* that I received I noticed that our little village has now quite a number of boys with the colors and the great send-off that they are getting to speed them on. I take great interest also in reading The Press away down here where we never get much news from the north.

It is very warm here at present and the boys from the north drop here quite frequent, and we have to sleep with mosquito netting hung over our cots to prevent the malaria mosquito from getting at us during the night. I am the only boy in our camp to receive the Red Cross comfort kit so far, and they are from all over the states down here; that makes me feel proud of my little home town up in Connecticut. Hoping that the good work keeps up and with three cheers for the Red Cross society, I thank you in advance.

Pt. Harold V. Purdy• Camp Sheridan, Montgomery, Alabama.

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**More Than Pleased.**

J. L. Freeman Sergeant-overseer, Quartermaster Corps, New York, son of the manager of The Press, writes as follows: "I wish you writes to the Press: "I wish you would thank the Thompsonville Red Cross people for the comfort kit, which came to me a few days ago. 'It is fine, and I knew that every boy "who receives one will be more than pleased. All of the Massachusetts boys who passed through the city last week had sweaters, knitted helmets, and wristlets given them by the Red Cross organizations of their home towns."

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Sept. 3, 1917

Editor Thompsonville Press:

Please give our sincere thanks to the Enfield Red Cross for the presents we received today. We are pleased with them and we thank your committee for the presents. The Thompsonville chapter opened the way and we hope all other cities will follow our city in that respect. We expect to leave for France as we are part of the 16th Infantry which is on the front.

Gregory Petrohilos,

Charles Altiparmakis,

Rokopios Vetsika,

John Kalogirog.

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“Happiest Moments In Camp." Sept. 11, 1917

Editor of The Press:

I wish to expend to you my thanks for your kindness in sending me a copy of your paper each week. I can say that some of my happiest moments in camp have been spent reading The Press, Wishing you success, I amLaurence Thomas Downey, H.J Seaman Training Sta.,Newport, R.I.