

Mentioned in Despatches

George A. Walton, who has been appointed general passenger agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Winnipeg, was formerly the railway's agent at Chicago. Mr. Walton is a native Canadian, having been born in Montreal in 1881. He gained his first railway experience in the Grand Trunk, which he joined as a lad of sixteen, later becoming associated with the Canadian Pacific Railway at Winnipeg. He also saw service at Brandon and Spokane before going to Chicago.

Gen. Lessard, who has been granted permission to go to France, is one of the best known military men in this country. He was born in Quebec city in 1860. Gen. Lessard has had a long military career, serving in the militia for many years, taking part in the Northwest Rebellion and in the war in South Africa, where he was twice mentioned in despatches and won promotion. He has specialized in the cavalry branch of the service.

Capt. Forest Mitchell, who has been awarded the D.S.O. for conspicuous bravery at the Dardanelles, belongs to a well known family. He is a nephew of Senator Mitchell of Montreal, and a cousin of the Hon. Walter Mitchell, treasurer of the Province of Quebec. Capt. Mitchell was formerly a resident of Amherst, N.S., where he was employed by the Maritime Coal Company. When war broke out he was in the West, where he enlisted as a private, winning promotion as a result of meritorious work.

Thomas L. Shevlin, the famous Yale football coach and millionaire lumberman, has just died in his 34th year. Shevlin carried a million and a half insurance, putting on a million of that amount five months ago. On that occasion he was examined by nine different physicians, representing the nine companies with which he was going to place his insurance. After a thorough examination he was pronounced a perfect risk. His death was caused by pneumonia, brought on by the hard exacting duties which he performed last fall in connection with the Yale football team.

King George is not only keeping in close touch with his army in France and Flanders, but is making personal sacrifices in sending his son to the front, as well as some of his most intimate friends. Recently the King's boyhood friend and playmate, Lord De La Warr, died from illness contracted while serving at the Dardanelles. As boys the King and De La Warr played together and the intimacy thus established continued until the present time. In addition the King has allowed to go to the Navy Commander Sir Charles Cust, who was the King's boon companion in his sailor days, the two being shipmates on the old "Britannia." Cust now returns to active service in the Navy.

Mr. E. A. Lancaster, M.P. for Lincoln County, has just died at his home at St. Catharines. Mr. Lancaster has been in Parliament for the last fifteen years, and was regarded as one of the most painstaking and efficient members in the House. He was especially noted for his activity in crystallizing into legislation matters relating to railways. He was born in London, England, in 1860, but came as a child with his parents to Canada and was educated at London, Ont., and Osgoode Hall, Toronto. He then settled in St. Catharines, where he practised law. His eldest son, a captain in the Canadian Artillery, is now at the front.

Camille de Coppet, who has just been elected president of Switzerland, occupies a somewhat delicate position, owing to the fact that his country is entirely surrounded by warring nations, while his people are practically divided into French, Italian and German sections. The new president of Switzerland is a lawyer by profession and is noted throughout his country for his oratorical gifts. He was born in 1862 and started his political career in 1899. He eventually became vice-president and now succeeds to the presidency of the Swiss Confederacy. As the president of Switzerland receives a smaller salary than an alderman of a second rate Canadian city, while the people are exceedingly democratic, it is obvious that there is neither place nor money for any elaborate display in connection with the office.

Major A. V. Becher, M.D., of London, Ont., medical health officer of the 33rd Overseas Battalion, died of pneumonia a few days ago at Quebec and was buried in his native city. Major Becher was well known in both medical and military circles in London. He was a veteran of the South African War. A brother, Lieut.-Col. Campbell Becher, was killed in action Givenchy on June 15th, while serving as second in command of the First Battalion.

William Waldorf Astor, who has just been created a baron, is an expatriated American. He was born in New York in 1848, a son of the late John Jacob Astor, and studied law. For a time he was in the New York Legislature, then acted as United States minister to Italy. He became a British subject in 1899, while his son, who is married to one of the famous Langhorne beauties, is a member of the British Parliament for Plymouth. The new baron has given very generously to the Red Cross and other British patriotic institutions, and in every other particular is thoroughly identified with the life of his adopted country.

Dr. A. T. Bazin, who is going Overseas as second in command of the 9th Field Ambulance, Canadian Expeditionary Force, has been given the rank of major. Dr. Bazin, although a young man, is recognized as one of the leading surgeons in the Dominion. He was born in Montreal in 1872 and educated at the Montreal High School and at McGill, graduating from the latter institution in 1894. His surgical work and his connection with the medical faculty of McGill soon brought him into prominence. He is also well known as a lecturer and as a writer. Dr. Bazin is in every respect an ideal physician, his sunny smile and kindly disposition being good accompaniments to his skill as a surgeon.

Sir George Scott Robertson, member of Parliament for Bradford, England, and known throughout the world as the defender of Chitral, has just died. He was born in London in 1852, educated as a lawyer, and then entered the Indian Medical Service. Through his connection with this department of the Army he served through the Afghan Campaign and a half score other frontier and tribal wars in Northern India. Some twenty years ago he was placed in charge of the political force at Chitral and was besieged there in 1895. During the siege he was severely wounded, but managed to hold out until relief came. For his services there he was knighted. His book, Chitral, the Story of a Minor Siege is a thrilling narrative.

Lord Armitstead, who has just died at London at the age of ninety-two, was born in Russia. He succeeded his father as head of the great mercantile house of Armitstead & Company of Great Britain and Russia, an institution which has been the main factor in promoting trade between the two countries for the past two hundred years. The dead peer is best known for his connection with the late Hon. W. E. Gladstone, being the latter's closest and most intimate friend. Armitstead was a member of Parliament for Dundee but did not limit his support of Gladstone to Parliament. He practically adopted the former premier's youngest son, Herbert, and at his death bequeathed to him a large portion of his fortune. Lord Herbert Gladstone, who inherits the fortune, was formerly Governor of the South African Union.

The Russian victories on the Roumanian frontier will undoubtedly have a very favorable effect upon the people of Roumania. The King of Roumania is a Hohenzollern and was trained and educated in Germany. His wife, Princess Maria of Saxe-Coburg is a granddaughter of the late Queen Victoria. The present King, Ferdinand, only succeeded to the throne a few months ago and does not share his father's popularity, nor has he the strength and ability of the late king. The Roumanian people are of the same stock racially as the Italians and French, and as Roumania is more of a democracy than Bulgaria, it is extremely unlikely that the King can induce his people to cast in their lot with the Teutons. It is all the more unlikely as the present King is unpopular. With this handicap he is not likely to accomplish what his more popular and more powerful father failed to do.

Sir Collingwood Schreiber, one of Canada's new knights, has been chief consulting engineer for the Government for the past ten years. He was born in England in 1831, but came to this country as a young man and became connected with railroad enterprises in Nova Scotia. From the Pictou Railway he went to the Intercolonial, later going as chief engineer to the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was later appointed Deputy Minister of railways and canals.

Sir John Kennedy, who was born at Spencerville, Ont., in 1838, has been for thirty-two years actively connected with the Montreal Harbor Commission as chief engineer. Sir John not only had charge of the building up and improving of the Montreal Harbor and the channel from Montreal to the Sea, but invented certain types of dredges which are to-day used in practically every country throughout the world.

Viscount Hardinge, Viceroy of India, must be giving excellent satisfaction as head of affairs in that part of the Empire. Not only was he requested to remain as Viceroy until the end of the war, but at the recent meeting of the Indian National Congress, which was attended by 10,000 delegates, the loyal support of India was again pledged to Great Britain. Hardinge is to the manner born, an ancestor being Viceroy of India many years ago. He was appointed to his present post in 1910, when he was created a baron. He was born in England in 1858 and educated at Harrow and Cambridge, and then entered the diplomatic service, where he had experience in various European capitals.

Sir W. D. Reid, knighted on the first of the year is intimately associated with the industrial and transportation affairs of the island of Newfoundland. He is a son of the late Sir Robert G. Reid and was born in Australia forty-nine years ago, but educated in this country. He is president of the Reid Newfoundland Railway Company, which has now a total mileage of 930 miles. He was largely instrumental in having pulp and paper establishments located in Newfoundland, and in many other ways has been a prominent factor in connection with the development of the Ancient Colony. He has been at the front and has also helped the cause by turning over to the Russian Government the ice-breakers which he had in service.

Mr. H. B. Walker, the new president of the Montreal Board of Trade, is manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in this city. Mr. Walker comes of a well known family, being a younger brother of Sir Edmund Walker, president of the Canadian Bank of Commerce. Mr. Walker was born at Hamilton in 1858, educated in that city, and entered the services of the Bank of Commerce in 1877. After an experience with the Bank which extended over a considerable period of years and included the management of a number of important branches in Canada and in Chicago, he became head of the investment department of the Canada Life Assurance Company. He returned to his first love in 1902, when he became joint manager of the Bank's branch in New York City. For the past eight years he has been manager of the Montreal branch. He is also chairman of the Montreal Clearing House. Mr. Walker has a son at the front, an officer in the 13th Battalion.

Frederick Palmer, probably the world's most famous war correspondent, has just issued a book entitled, "My Year of the Great War." Palmer probably knows more about the theoretical side of fighting than any other man in the world, or if he does not he should know it. He has been in every scrap, big and little, which has taken place in the past twenty years, as well as having roughed it in every out of the way place in the world. Among the many wars in which he has acted as correspondent are the Greek War of 1895-7, the Philippine end of the war between the United States and Spain, the Boxer Rebellion and the Relief of Peking, the Russian-Japanese War, the Turkish Revolution of 1909, and the two Balkan Wars, not to mention the present titanic struggle which he has seen from the very outset. In addition, Palmer has "covered" the Klondike, has sailed around the world with the American battleship fleet, has investigated Central and South American revolutions by the half dozen, and generally speaking, has been present whenever there was anything "doing." Palmer was born in Pennsylvania in 1873 and educated at Allegheny College. His book on the Great War is by long odds the best that has appeared.