

HOTTEST CORNER

In Which Canada's Second Contingent Were Placed.

Sergt. Ralph Markham's Graphic Narrative of a Retreat When the Boers Were on Top.

BELFAST, S. A., Nov. 10.—Lillefontein (pronounced Lilyfontein) sounds peaceful enough, but we will always think of it as the hottest corner we were ever in.

I have just returned from the funeral of three of our men who were killed on the last reconnaissance to the above place, Sgt. Bullard, Corp. Tillson and Lieut. Corp. Anderson.

We had driven the Boers off a long flat plateau which overlooked the country for miles. We camped at one end of the plateau for the night, and next morning we started for Belfast by the same road we came out. Our troop was the right flanking patrol for the Canadian guns under Lt. Morrison.

We shelled large parties of Boers before we started to retire, and they disappeared behind the hills.

After going for half a mile I saw the whole rear guard galloping towards us. In a few minutes the Boers, two hundred of them, came along in one long line with an interval of about 15 yards.

The rear guard dismounted several times and opened on them, but it got so hot that they had to mount immediately or get caught, so it gradually developed into a chase—infantry, coil gun, artillery, cavalry and mounted infantry.

Luckily we came to a spruit where we could make a stand, and we held the Boers in check until the artillery (Canadian) could come into action.

The Boers still kept firing at our rear guard for two or three miles. The galloping coil gun belonging to our squadron was so hotly pursued that Sgt. Holland had to take the gun off the carriage and carry it with him on his saddle.

When the Boers came up to the carriage they wheeled it around as if to open fire on us, but they soon discovered there was no gun. However, they got 1,400 rounds of ammunition in the carriage, which they can use in the rifles they took from the men who were captured.

The Boers almost captured one of the Royal Canadian artillery guns. The bullets were dropping all around the gun, and if one of the battery horses had been hit they would certainly have had the gun. The gunners were running by the guns, as the horses were almost exhausted. It is thought that it was the gun, which the Boers could see not three hundred yards away, that made the Boers charge us.

In fact a prisoner we got told one of our men that his command was ordered to charge the rear guard and guns.

The Boers captured a dozen or more of our men, and after taking their arms, horses, saddlery, etc., let them go.

Some of these men told interesting stories. Hilder of 2nd troop was holding four horses. The Boers rode up to him and after searching him asked why he was fighting. He said, "For the same reason you are." A young Boer then came up and told Hilder that his brother had been killed the day before and he intended to shoot Hilder. One of the older Boers interfered and sent him away.

The Boers are living in the houses all over the country. I was in one house that had six double beds. In another I found a Boer in bed with a sprained ankle.

The 2nd battalion burned over 15 of these houses, and in one they found a Boer hiding under the floor.

Farrier Sgt. Ope was hit in the forearm and Pte. Roberts was hit in both arms in this fight. In one arm the bullet went in near the elbow and came out just at the base of the little finger, knocking the stone out of his ring and flattening another ring on the same finger. Pte. Berg was hit on the shoulder blade, the bullet stopping against his backbone. Lieut. Turner was hit in the neck and arm. Lieut. Emsley was hit just above the heart.

All these men, it is expected, will recover. When Emsley was hit he was not ten feet away from Andy McIntosh and your humble servant. We were halted and could hear the bullets whistling over our heads. Suddenly one seemed to pass just at the end of my nose. I turned around and looked at McIntosh, who was looking down at himself to see if he was hit. It was at this moment that Lt. Emsley fell forward on his horse's neck.

It was a fine sight to see the Boers coming along in line, firing from their horses' backs, but from the point of personal safety it was not advisable to look at them too long.

The latest rumor is that we are to leave next week. I think we are really going, as I myself saw the order that we were to be ready to "proceed to Pretoria on shortest notice." The 2nd batt. C. M. R. and the Canadian artillery are to go with us.

I will write you the day we leave Belfast.

RALPH MARKHAM.

CORNWALLIS NEWS.

CORNWALLIS, N. S., Dec. 24.—Charles Beales has purchased a place at Factorydale from George Taylor of Aylesford.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dickie of Canada are visiting the upper provinces. J. R. Forbes, of the Halifax Banking Co. at Canning, has been transferred to the bank at Windsor, while Charles Hendley of that town takes his place in Canning.

F. M. Logan, manager of the Acadia Dairy Co., Wolfville, leaves next week for Guelph College, Ontario. Mr. Logan is also high chief ranger of Nova Scotia in the I. O. F.

Mrs. John Newcombe of Habitant has recently returned from Boston with her little daughter, who underwent a successful operation for facial trouble, the result of whooping cough.



Training

Is indispensable to athletic success. In training, much stress is laid upon diet; careful attention to the quantity and quality of the food eaten, with regularity of meals.

That is the secret of strength for every man. No man can be stronger than his stomach. The careless and irregular eating of business men causes disease of the stomach and its allied organs of digestion and nutrition. There can be no sound health until these diseases are cured.

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition, and enables the body to be built up into vigorous health by the assimilation of the nutrition extracted from food.

"I was taken with the grippe, which resulted in heart and stomach trouble," writes Mr. T. R. Burditt of Montreal, Alleghany Co., N. C. "I was unable to eat anything for a part of the time. I wrote to Dr. Pierce about my condition, having confidence in his medicine. He advised me to take his Golden Medical Discovery, which I did. Before I had finished the second bottle I began to eat, and after taking a few more bottles, I feel thankful to God for the benefit I have received from Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I can highly recommend it to all persons as a good and safe medicine."

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure constipation.

IN ICY WATERS.

Crew of an American Schooner Have a Terrible Experience.

NEW LONDON, Conn., Dec. 24.—The crew of the three masted schooner Marcus Edwards, brought into this port at 10 o'clock tonight by the United States lightship tender Cactus, tell of the fearful experience of clinging to the side of the capsize vessel in the icy waters of Long Island Sound from the early morning until 6 o'clock tonight, when they were discovered and their rescue effected.

The Marcus Edwards, of 135 tons burden, sailed four weeks ago from Port Greenville, N. E., for New York, with a cargo of tile. In weathering a recent storm, a leak was sprung, which increased in size until at one o'clock this morning the pumps were worked at the rate of 60 strokes a minute in order to keep the vessel afloat. No danger was anticipated, however, until 1.30, when the Edwards began to fill, at the same time listing to starboard. All hands rushed to the deck and superhuman efforts were made to cut away the rigging, but in vain, and in a few minutes the schooner went over, settling on her side in the water. The crew of six men were all thrown clear when the Edwards capsized, and with some difficulty succeeded in working their way back to their vessel, to cling there until daylight should bring them assistance. But at daybreak the fog was so dense that all sight of land, and even the sky, was shut out, and not a soul penetrated the deadened atmosphere.

For 16 hours the men clung there, soaked by the waves and the merciless drenching mist, until 6.30 tonight they were sighted by the Cactus. Captain V. C. Bagley of the Marcus Edwards explains the disaster on the theory that the constant leaking had so weakened the centreboard that it finally gave way, causing the schooner to fill immediately.

The Edwards was owned at Jonesport, Maine, and tomorrow an attempt will be made to tow her into port.

CHRISTMAS CLOSING.

The closing of the school year was celebrated in a unique and interesting manner by Miss Gertrude Morrell in her school at Westfield. Invitations were sent to all the people in the district and to a host of friends outside to be present at the school house on Dec. 20th at 7 o'clock p. m. Long before the appointed time the house was packed. The decorations within the building were in perfect taste. Entwined around the door were beautiful wreaths of evergreen studded with red berries, while standing out in bold crimson letters upon a background of gold was the motto "Without the door let sorrow lie and wish to all a merry Christmas." Directly opposite was a life size portrait of the Queen, which was artistically draped with flags. On either side of large slate blackboards were painted sketches of Santa Claus, the first representing him just disappearing down the chimney, while the second showed him before a great fireplace loading the children's stockings with candies and toys, so dear to the children's heart. A little farther to the left was Father Time in the act of turning over a new leaf in his great book. The teacher's desk was removed and in its place stood a great Christmas tree which reached to the high ceiling and was loaded almost to the breaking point with every kind of good thing.

At 7 o'clock the scholars filed out of the classroom, two abreast, with a beautiful silken Union Jack at their head, and marching to the music of a miniature drum formed a hollow square two deep and sang the "Soldiers of the Queen," standing under a magnificent canopy of flags. The programme consisted of the following, which was well rendered: Recitation, My Sister's Best Fellow, by George Parlee; A Little Girl's Speech, B. C. Craig; dialogue, Marrying a Poetess, by M. Brown, Bessie Appt, Miss G. Morrell and Sadie Brown; recitation, Watching for Crumbs, by H. Parlee; dialogue, The Letter, by G. and H. Parlee; recitation, Whipping the Boy, by Bessie Appt; reading, Briar Rose, by Miss G. Morrell; recitation, Which One Are You Going to Drown? by Hilda Belyas; dialogue, The Irish Love Letter, by Louise Parlee, Bessie Appt

and Miss G. Morrell; recitation, Charterbox, by Eva Craig; dialogue, A Rose and a Thorn, by Sadie Brown; Mildred Craig, M. Parlee and Louise Parlee; recitation, Was it a Crime? by Miss G. Morrell; dialogue, On the Way to London, by G. Parlee, Mildred Craig and C. Long.

After the programme was finished Rev. Mr. Parlee addressed those present on the subject of education, and paid a well merited tribute to the teacher for the efficiency of the school and the high grade of excellence which they have attained under her tutelage.

The Christmas tree engaged the attention of the spectators for a while as the gifts of the teacher were transferred to the children and with the singing of the national anthem the party broke up.

Miss Morrell has had charge of this school for the past year, and beside being a first class teacher of more than ordinary ability she is a distinguished linguist, speaking fluently in French and Italian. The people of Westfield may consider themselves favored, as she is going to remain in her present position for another term.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

A pleasant gathering of the travelling and office staff of the Frost & Wood Co., Ltd., on Saturday evening at the residence of the local manager, Wm. J. Burditt, Crouxville, was made the occasion of the presentation to Mr. Burditt of a handsome easy chair. The presentation was made by J. D. Schurman on behalf of the staff in a brief address and was acknowledged by Mr. Burditt in a suitable manner.

At St. John's (stone) church Sunday school on Sunday afternoon the pastor presented Miss Amy Winters with a very handsome oak inkstand and pen rack. The present was a recognition of Miss Winters' great services in the Beehive society in connection with the mission to the Jews.

The Ladies' Aid society in connection with the Home for Incurables has gladdened the hearts of both staff and inmates by generous and appropriate gifts, and in addition for each pupil of home-made confections, put up in very neat boxes.

Alexander Grey, foreman of the St. John Ice company, was presented on Saturday night by the employees of the company with a handsome cardigan jacket, a silk handkerchief and a silk scarf. Mr. Grey was an efficient employee of Mrs. Wheeler for thirteen years, and is a popular man with his co-workers.

Fred E. Marvin and Fred P. Elkin, superintendent and bookkeeper respectively of the Maritime Nail Works, were presented with a handsome fur cap and gloves. Mr. Elkin was next called to the front, when another address was read and he was presented with a beautiful dressing case. Mr. Marvin, in reply, spoke of the good feeling that existed between the employers and the employees, and expressed his appreciation of the gift very much. Mr. Elkin tendered his thanks to the men for their kind remembrance of him. Both wished the men a joyful Christmas.

HOPWELL HILL.

Christmas Services, in St. John's Church—Presentations.

HOPWELL HILL, Dec. 25.—The Christmas service today in St. John's Church of England was one of particular attractiveness and was largely attended. The interior of the church was beautifully decorated with evergreen and illuminated texts. The rector, Rev. Mr. Smithers, delivered an especially interesting and appropriate sermon from the words, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy." The choir sang Carol, Sweetly Carol, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Gently Falls the Winter Snow, the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. Mrs. M. B. Dixon sang a solo very acceptably. Rev. Mr. Smithers also held Christmas services this week at River View, New Ireland and Hillsboro.

Geo. Wallace of Curryville and Miss Ethel Steeves of Moncton were married last evening at the residence of Albert Milton brother-in-law of the bride, by Rev. Mr. Townsend.

The Presbyterian church of Riverside have been presented with a bell for their church by Lt. Gov. McClellan. Miss Celia I. F. Peck, organist of the Episcopal church, was presented this evening by the rector and choir with a very handsomely bound copy of the Church Hymn-book.

"Ah," said the guest, "I see you have an axe on the mantel. In case the folding bed should close suddenly."—Chicago News.

OUTBREAK OF SMALLPOX

In a Large Section of Westmorland County.

Cape Tormentine Railway Closed for Outward Traffic in Consequence—Sixty Cases Reported—Provincial Board of Health Moves Slowly.

SACKVILLE, Dec. 24.—Dr. J. O. Calkin, health officer of this place, has just returned from Botsford, 25 miles from here, where he has been making an investigation into alleged smallpox cases. He states there are about 60 cases extending along the road from Cape Tormentine to Port Elgin, over a range of 20 miles; also at Cape Bald, about twenty miles distant in another direction. Dr. Calkin was assisted in his examination by Dr. H. Lunan of Campbellton, who has had large experience in dealing with the disease in this locality, and also by the local doctors. The cases are typical, but mild. The disease has been prevailing in that locality since the first of October, Mrs. J. F. Mahoney having arrived from Grand Anse, Gloucester county, about the 20th of September and being taken down about two weeks later.

The cases were so light that not much attention was paid to them, and the epidemic passed under the name of chicken pox. The death of Jeremiah Sweeney, an aged and respected inhabitant, on the 20th December, first drew public attention to the matter, leading to the investigation.

No other cases have proved serious, but considerable excitement prevails. The Cape Tormentine railway was closed today so far as outward traffic is concerned, and precautions have been taken to stop people leaving by patrols at the various highway bridges.

But people have been moving around through the infected district for three months, and smallpox is therefore liable to break out anywhere in the province. Some apprehension is felt that the disease may develop into a more virulent type, and every effort is being made to check its spread. The churches and schools are all closed.

Writing under yesterday's date the St. John's regular Sackville correspondent said: The cases at Bale Verte have been pronounced smallpox, though of a mild type. The secretary of board of health from Fredericton, Dr. Fisher, has placed the town in quarantine, and no mails or passengers will be allowed to pass either way. An expert from Campbellton has been sent for. Dr. Fisher was in Sackville over Sunday.

(St. John Globe, 24th.)

Apparently the smallpox at Port Elgin is much more prevalent than the authorities imagined. Dr. E. D. Fisher of Marysville, secretary of the provincial board of health, returned today from a visit to Port Elgin. Dr. Fisher told the Globe that in his opinion there are fully a hundred cases of the disease in and about Port Elgin.

Dr. Fisher says that he is surprised if cases are heard of all over the province. Dr. Fisher said the local physicians had been treating the outbreak as chicken-pox. He, however, is convinced it is smallpox, and has sent to Gloucester for one of the physicians there to come down and if it is not exactly the same type as in that county. In the meantime all railroad communication has been cut off and every precaution taken to prevent a further spread of the disease. Dr. Fisher said the outbreak is of such a non-form that many of the people prefer taking it to suffering the pain and soreness of vaccination.

SACKVILLE, N. B., Dec. 26.—A large and influential meeting of the citizens of Sackville, presided over by J. L. Black today, was attended by Dr. McDonald, Mayor, Dr. Calkin, Calkin of the county board of health, to take action with reference to the smallpox cases in Botsford. The doctors announced they had quarantined all suspected cases and ordered compulsory vaccination in the infected district, where they had closed schools and churches and directed that outward communication from that district be prevented. They reported that chicken-pox had been prevalent for three months or more, with some cases of varioloid, probably 150 in all, and that about 60 cases existed at present. They were so mild in character that they yielded to home treatment, in most cases without medical aid. It was on Friday last that Dr. Carter for the first time detected smallpox, when he notified the board, which took immediate steps to prevent its spreading. Less than a dozen cases in all of smallpox had come under the cognizance of the doctors, including one at Cape Bald. An infected case had been prevailing in Sackville, but the doctors pronounced these all chicken-pox. At this date there is no known case of smallpox in Sackville or within 20 miles of it. The board of health directed that no passengers or freight be brought from the infected district and that the mails from there be disinfected. This will not interfere with through business with P. E. Island. The meeting discussed the compulsory vaccination and also the establishment of a quarantine station in which to detain travellers from the infected district. These and other measures were left to the discretion of a committee which was appointed to cooperate with the board of health to take vigorous action to check the further spreading of the disease. The committee appointed consisted of Dr.

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