

TRAINING OF THE BRITISH SOLDIER ON SOUND LINES

Experience In The Great War Demonstrates This

SOME EXAMPLES

Good March Discipline Necessary—Aircraft and Machine Guns—Trench Fighting—The Cavalry—Views of Military Authorities

The British military authorities are raising a new army of more than a million men, and it is natural that those responsible for the training are looking carefully at the record on the continent to see whether the methods of training which have been developed and practised in the last ten years are correct.

The general effect of these records of the experience of the last four months is that the training of the British army has been conducted on sound and correct lines. Those who would fit themselves to face the enemy must study the text books in use when the war broke out. Of course, certain wrinkles are learned from practical experience.

For example, an officer of high rank after remarking on the effectiveness of the German artillery fire, says:—

"The German infantry, on the other hand, is inferior to our own in developing fire effect. A short field of fire (500 yards or even less) has been found sufficient to check a German infantry attack. Tactically, therefore, the enemy's ground force, every effort should be made to combine the fire of our own guns and rifles against the enemy's infantry, while denying to the enemy the use of his artillery by the siting of trenches in positions which it is intended to hold on to, behind rather than on the crest line or forward slopes."

"This does not mean that advanced posts have been found to be of no value. On the contrary, in order that full advantage may be taken of the strength of such positions as described it has been found essential to prevent the enemy's rapid approach by the use of advance posts supported by artillery in order to gain time for deployment and the reconnaissance of the main position and under favorable conditions for its entrenchments."

Good March Discipline

The same officer makes, a remark upon a subject the importance of which civilians are apt to underrate.

"Men who have not been with the colors during the last four or five years do not understand the necessity for good march discipline. It should be impressed upon all ranks and should be resolutely insisted upon at all training previous to arriving in the theatre of war. There has been struggling, no doubt in great measure due to exhaustion during the first phase, but it is most necessary to tighten up the march discipline again and to prevent undue opening out and straggling."

"Horse wagons should not be parked on the road."

"Wagons should never be halted when passing through a village."

"When a halt is necessary it should be made before reaching or after passing a village."

"Men accompanying trains should carry their rifles and should march in formed bodies."

"Each unit should detail an officer with a small party of selected non-commissioned officers and men to march in rear of the unit in order to enforce orders against straggling, leaving the ranks for water and so forth."

Aircraft

Two new features of this war have been the use of aircraft and of machine guns. Upon these subjects this authority says:—

"The enemy's aircraft are numerous and efficient up to the moment of being obtained by this or other means excellent information as to our movements. It has been found impossible to conceal movements of troops and of troops when on the march, from this observation, and the position of large bivouacs can always be observed from the air. But much can be done to conceal artillery positions and trenches, and the use of overhead cover, as we know from our own experience, makes it difficult to ascertain from the air whether trenches and gun emplacements are occupied or not. Troops should therefore be taught to understand the necessity for concealment from aircraft whenever the conditions admit of it."

"Machine guns have played a very important part in the war, and their use is apt in making use of their sur-

roundings."

Cavalry

During the last ten years the British cavalry has been trained with great diligence. Ignoring the advice of extremists, its leaders have taught the men to be expert alike with sword and lance and with the rifle. The result is that both the cold steel and the rifle have been used effectively. Certain highly placed observers thus are quoted thus:—

"The training of the cavalry with the rifle has been invaluable, and has given them great advantage over the enemy. There have been up to the present, no cases of large cavalry charges with the lance blanketed, but the latter has been used a good deal in small affairs."

In distinction to the German method of handling infantry in masses, these officers say that an infantry advance "should not be made in rigid lines, but with clouds of skirmishers five or six yards apart, thrown forward according to the ground and available cover."

"The essential thing," says one general at the front, "is to pay attention to the sound principles on which our training has been based."

This is a proud thing to be able to say. British soldiers judged accurately the nature of modern warfare and adapted the teaching of their men to it, on the whole with great success. It took brains to do that."

"The German infantry," writes an artillery officer, "cannot touch ours, and their shooting is deplorable. They seem to depend entirely on their machine guns, which are the very devil and malignantly handled." The same observer says: "To say that artillery cannot stop an infantry advance by itself is sheer nonsense. The German infantry will not face our artillery fire, nor that of the French."

MINISTER HEARD IN ADDRESS BEFORE CANADIAN CLUBS

Men's Gathering at Supper Time and Public Meeting Under Auspices of Women's Clubs in Imperial Theatre

A thorough, although necessarily hurried inspection of the units mustered in St. John for home and foreign service was made yesterday by Major General Hughes, minister of militia, who put in a strenuous day. In addition to his inspection of the 26th battalion, referred to in yesterday's Times, he inspected the Artillery and Army Service Corps, and was particularly well pleased with their showing.

Before his departure he addressed the Canadian Club in the Masonic Temple at 6.15 p. m., and also was the guest of honor at a reception tendered him by the Women's Canadian Club in the Imperial Theatre later in the evening. The minister was accompanied by Miss Hughes, who was the recipient of a bouquet from DeMonte, Brunswick and Valcartier Chapters, Daughters of the Empire, presented by Miss Rosemond McAvity. The meeting was opened with a short address by Mrs. Kuhn, Miss Blenda Thompson sang "We'll never let the old flag fall." The minister gave an address, which varied but little from that which he gave at the meeting of the Canadian Club earlier in the evening.

Mrs. G. A. Kuhn, president of the Women's Canadian Club, occupied the chair, and there were on the stage at her left Mrs. E. A. Smith, honorary president of the club; Mayor Frink, Miss Hughes, daughter of the general; Mrs. G. Blizard, Mrs. W. D. Forster, Miss Travers, Mrs. Adams, Mrs. Boyd Travers, and at the right General Hughes, Lady Tilley, Mrs. J. H. Frink, Mrs. John McAvity, Mrs. G. F. Smith, Mrs. F. S. White, Miss Grimmer and Miss Rosemond McAvity, and the gentlemen, Col. H. H. McLean, Col. B. R. Armstrong, Col. J. L. McAvity, Col. A. E. Massie, Dr. H. S. Bridges, Senator Thomas, L. P. D. Tilley, M. P. P.; Col. E. T. Sturdee, and Colonel Murphy, who accompanied the general here.

At the conclusion of the general's address, which has been found to be very great indeed. Till they are located and engaged, machine guns play havoc with troops in close order, but when located they are easily knocked out by artillery fire, or silenced by a concentrated rifle fire. Great care should therefore be taken in selecting the positions for machine guns, in occupying them without attracting attention and in reserving fire till a suitable opportunity arrives, in order to make full use of their surprise effect. The only way to avoid the surprise effect of the enemy's machine guns is by careful reconnaissance."

French Fighting

French fighting has been a feature of the use of infantry. This officer says:—"Owing to the accuracy of the enemy's artillery fire, it is desirable that ground which is to be held defensively or to assist further advance should be entrenched. Trenches should be commenced at once with the light entrenching tool and improved later as opportunity occurs. They should be deep and narrow and should show above the ground level as little as possible, and all trenches should be traversed at intervals of five to ten rifles. When sitting trenches it should be borne in mind that the enemy is adept at bringing enfilade artillery fire to bear from flank positions. At any point, such as a salient, at which trenches are particularly liable to be taken by the enemy, great care should be taken as to their siting and they should be especially heavily traversed. Where head cover cannot be provided, cover from shell fire for the troops when not actually using their rifles, can readily be obtained by making recesses in the trenches on the side nearest to the enemy. It has been found that head-cover or anything that in any way interferes with the rapid use of the rifle is a disadvantage in positions where the trenches have a short field of fire and are therefore liable to be brushed. If immunity from shrapnel fire can be obtained up to the moment of having to resist the infantry attack, no more can be hoped for. Communication trenches for supports and ammunition supply are necessary and they should be wide enough to permit of a stretcher being carried along them so as to facilitate the removal of wounded."

"Support trenches may be close to the firing line trenches, but should be so made that the men can lie down and sleep. All trenches must be assimilated to the surroundings."

"Elbow rests have not generally been found useful."

"Protection against high-explosive shells of howitzers is unobtainable in field operations, but this effect can be localized by traverses."

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speech, Mrs. E. A. Smith made an excellent address as follows:—

Madame President, General Hughes, Ladies and Gentlemen:— It must be a matter of great satisfaction to you to know that the Women's Canadian Club of St. John has been able to effect the capture of so important a military leader and strategist as Major General Hughes. In his recent campaign, the general has played so chivalrous a part, that we are proud to allow him to retain his sword. It is also a source of satisfaction to say that we have accomplished this feat without any visible warfare, although we did have valuable counsel and active assistance from our worthy friend, Colonel McLean.

I may say, that the quest for General Hughes was begun some time ago. As you know, Madame President, it fell to my lot, as convener of the committee, to provide a distinguished speaker for the club's December meeting. Personally I am greatly pleased with the result, as I trust you and all present are. It is needless to enter into further details. Suffice to say, Major General Hughes is here on a visit to St. John, to dispense the ability or the attractiveness of our other military leaders, our politicians, or our prominent public men, yet I feel safe in saying, that at this particular stage of our country's affairs, there is no one we could command who would prove more interesting than the gentleman who has addressed you.

The proof of this is apparent from the intense interest manifested by this audience throughout his enlightening address. The empire is at war, therefore Canada is at war, and I feel we are fortunate in having at this crucial period of our history as great a minister of militia as a man who possesses the ability, energy and foresight, which form so prominent a part of the mental equipment of our minister of militia. This is the hour, when men are needed from general down to private, and I am proud to say, 1100 of New Brunswick's best (whose worthy commander sits on the platform) are at this moment assembled in St. John, also our island Garrison, who are on guard for Canada.

But I may also add, though not called upon to do the uniform, we women of St. John and of all Canada feel that it is also our time for action and unity. We have taken up our share of the national burden to do all within our power in all the various ways within our sphere for the great common good.

Canada owes much to the men who are fighting her battles and bearing the burdens of state, but you will all concede she owes much to the noble women who so intently the principle of loyalty and devotion in the breasts of their sons, that the empire's call "To arms," has always met a prompt response and the history our loved empire is making today. I am sure will prove that amongst those who fought for freedom's cause, none proved more valiant aids than the sons of Canada!

I have therefore great pleasure, as honorary president of "The Women's Canadian Club" of St. John in conveying the club's thanks to Major General Hughes for his courtesy in appearing before us and to move that the appreciation of his effort and thanks of this

audience be tendered to him for his splendid address.

This was seconded in a graceful speech by Mrs. John A. McAvity. Then followed brief addresses by Mayor Frink, Col. H. H. McLean, Col. A. E. Massie, Col. B. R. Armstrong, Tipperary and the Marsellaise were sung at General Hughes' suggestion.

Before the Canadian Club, Major General Hughes gave an excellent review of the events leading up to the war, its progress and Canada's part in the conflict.

The minister laid extreme emphasis on the supreme necessity of Germany being beaten in the war and of peace terms being dictated in Berlin. He declared confidently that Canadian troops would be in the victorious march through Berlin but he admitted that the difficulty of the work was still to be faced. The Allies would not be ready for the real forward move under General Joffre until they could fire 100,000 shells a day at the Germans could. He mentioned that the Canadians might soon be crossing over to France and he told in picturesque way that very many Americans were being enlisted in the Canadian contingents.

You may lead a man to office but you cannot make him think.—Wall Street

REGINA ASSESSMENT.

Regina, Dec. 17.—Much interest is being manifested on the part of Canadian cities in the method by which the city of Regina will arrive at its assessment for next year. Assessment is supposed to be based on the realizable value of property, but as sales of real estate just at the present time are few and far between, it would be practically impossible to strike an equitable assessment which could not be upset by legal measures under the present system of valuation.

To overcome this the city commissioners suggested a scheme by which the assessment would be based entirely on the opinion of the ratepayers as to values. The council approved of this and the commissioners will therefore take steps to secure valuations from the ratepayers, to assist in striking next year's assessment. By this means it is thought that an equitable and reasonable assessment will be arrived at.

"A man and woman," said Mrs. Simpkins, "got married a few days ago after a courtship which had lasted fifty years." "I suppose," replied Mr. Simpkins, "the poor old man had become too feeble to hold out any longer."

Any Cutlery in this advertisement sent by Parcel Post, insured, on receipt of price—anywhere in Maritime Provinces

Advertisement for Birks' Watches. Features three Birks' Watches: Special Gold-filled Watch, Birks' Brokers' Watch, and The Countess' Engraved Expansion Bracelet Watch. Price list and contact information for Henry Birks & Sons, Ltd.

Large advertisement for Wrigley's Doublemint Double Strength Peppermint Gum. Includes the slogan "Try This New Goody!" and "After every meal".

Large advertisement for McAvity's Christmas Suggestions. Lists various cutlery items like Table Knives, Knives and Forks, Spoons and Forks, and Sterling Silver Spoons and Forks with prices.

Advertisement for The Bank of Nova Scotia. Includes the slogan "Safety First" and financial details.