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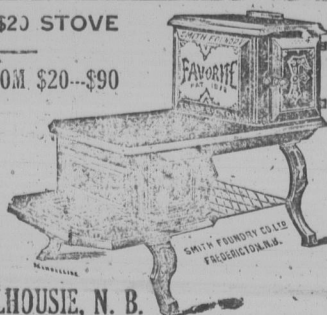
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BIRTH OF A POEM.

"In Flanders Fields" Born of Fire and Blood.

"In Flanders Fields" to quote the words of Maj.-Gen. Morrison, who commanded the brigade to which Lieut.-Col. McCrae was attached, "was literally born of fire and blood during the hottest phase of the second battle of Ypres."

"My headquarters were in a trench on the top of the bank of the Ypres Canal; and John had his dressing station in a hole dug in the foot of the bank. During periods of the battle men who were shot actually rolled down the bank into his dressing station. Along from us a few hundred yards was the headquarters of a regiment, and many times during the sixteen days of the battle, he and I watched them burying their dead whenever there was a lull. Thus the crosses, row on row, grew into a good-sized cemetery."

"Just as he describes, we often heard the larks singing high in the air, between the crash of the shell and the reports of the guns in the battery just beside us. I have a letter from him in which he mentions having written the poem to pass away the time between the arrival of batches of wounded, and served as an experiment with several varieties of poetic meter."

The unit with which McCrae served was the most advanced of all the Allied guns by a good deal, except one French battery, which stayed in a position yet more advanced for two days, and then had to be taken out.

Heroic Work of Canadian Doctors.

The faithful labors of the Canadian Army Medical Corps are drawing to a close. At the date of the armistice, 1,000 sick and wounded soldiers lay in France and 38,000 in England. At the end of September there were only 164 Canadian soldiers on the roster of whom seven were wounded, and twenty-four blind and the rest sick.

The work of the corps is enshrined in 64 boxes of records which are awaiting despatch to Canada.

Maj.-Gen. G. L. Foster, C.B., Director-General of Medical Services, claims that a detailed record of the injuries and treatment of every man who passed through his hands may be found in those 64 boxes to prove, if necessary, to every wife and mother in Canada that no man of hers ever failed to receive proper consideration.

He finds no words of praise too high for the medical men who left their practices in Canada and came overseas to work with and suffer with the troops, either under fire, where their casualties were on a level with the infantry, or in the dreary work of administration.

"I am intensely proud to belong to such a service," said Gen. Foster, "and consider it a splendid privilege to have lived in an age which produced this war, for as the heroes were very great, the heroism which faced them was infinitely greater. The Canadian and Imperial medical services worked together like brothers, and close association helped us to grow, until the C.A.M.C. became as large as the whole of the British R.A.M.C. at the time of the South African war."

Very Few Deserter.

The Canadian Press is officially informed that the total number of desertions in the Canadian forces since August, 1914, and not accounted for, is 1,733.

When it is remembered that over 420,000 troops went overseas from Canada, this is considered below the average. It must also be borne in mind that included in the number are those who deserted from the first contingent of about 35,000 men, a high proportion of whom were men born in the British Isles.

Many of these had served in the home forces. Shortly after the arrival of the first contingent in England, a considerable number of these deserters, and in many cases, it is understood, they re-enlisted in their old British regiments. Thus, at the beginning of the war, 1914, there was a much higher proportion of desertions than in any year since.

On an average about 40 deserters a month are being accounted for, so that the number is likely to be considerably reduced.

The total number of missing in battle casualties and not accounted for since the beginning of the war is 161.

Related to Royalty.

By a recent wedding a former Toronto man, Capt. Walter A. Curran, of the C.E.F., became a cousin, by marriage, with a niece of the Queen. Capt. Curran, who is a son of Mr. John Curran, of Orillia, married Mrs. Cyril W. Cunard, of Grosvenor Square, London, widow of the late Cyril Cunard, the well-known steamship family, in February, 1915.

Previous to her first marriage Mrs. Curran was a Miss Gibbs, the first cousin, Major Evelyn Gibbs, the well-known officer and sportsman, married Lady Helena Combridge, younger daughter of the Marquis and Marchioness of Cambridge, on September 2, The Marquis of Cambridge is a son of the late Duke of Teck and brother of Queen Mary.

A Difficult Pace.

"The old-fashioned political boss seems to have vanished."

"He has. In order to be a boss now a man must know how to talk about league of nations, covenants and sociological relationships and supply demand and a whole lot of subjects to which the old-fashioned boss didn't have to pay the slightest attention."

Excuse.

"Heh ah comes back from de wah and tells you 'man de wah de wah, Joe, an' yo' done aware to be true to me?'"

"True? Was you true to me when you kept writin' all about your engagements with at big Bertha ovah there?"

Worse Than the Reality.

"I 'fess this cowboy life is a rough one."

"I ust'er think so until I got into the movies."

Taking No Chances.

Pardon—on buying a couple of bottles of 'X'—

Albert: "You just put 'em down the street."

"C'm' a real look for my wife; the other's 'First Aid to the Sick' for myself."

Man Who Wrote Famous Hymn

To be a man of culture and education, to live a lonely and self-sacrificing life, to occupy his time with the most mental tasks, to remain true during his life to his love for a girl who died when she was twenty-three, to write the best-known piece of Canadian literature and to lie in an unmarked grave was the fate of Joseph Scriven, the author of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," of which millions of copies have been known to be published.

Mr. Scriven was born on September 10, 1819, in the parish of Seapark, County of Down, Ireland, and christened Joseph Macleod, the latter being his mother's maiden name. His father was a captain in the Royal Marines. His early education was entrusted to a Dr. Doncaster, in whose charge he remained until he was 15 years old. In 1835 he entered Trinity College, Dublin, and after less than two years there he became a student at the Addiscombe Military Seminary, in Surrey, England. Resigning in 1837 because his health was failing, he returned to Trinity and obtained his degree in 1841.

Soon after he came to Canada and spent the remainder of his years at Port Hope and at Rice Lake, ten miles away, on the shores of which lies his unmarked grave. At Port Hope the centenary of his birth was celebrated by the Methodist Church on September 10, after which there was a pilgrimage to the grave at Rice Lake. It is proposed to beautify the site of the grave and build a suitable monument to the devoted man who is remembered with so much reverence by the people who knew him. At Port Hope, where is the cottage in which he lived for many years, it has been suggested that a large electric sign be built displaying the words "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" within sight of three railroads, and a main thoroughfare, and that the cottage be purchased as a museum for the many who come to that spot in existence which were connected with the life of the preacher-poet.

Scriven went to Port Hope as a tutor for the children of Robert L. Pengeley, a commander in the royal navy, where for his services he was given land at Rice Lake upon which his son and grandchildren still live. The infant, or in the drug store, Catherine Rock, a niece of Captain Pengeley, and the daughter of Angus Macleod, N.B., N.S., who died of an illness of three years, during which time she saw Scriven almost daily, she died of tuberculosis on August 6, 1850, when she was only twenty-three years old. Scriven's reason for coming to Canada is not known, but perhaps the desire of his religious beliefs is something to do with it and his attitude toward life cannot be better characterized than a desire to follow the letter of the gospel command to go forth to all the world without script or purse and preach the gospel. For Scriven is still well remembered about Port Hope as the man who threw his hat upon the street on market day and on circus day and thrilled his audience by his message and his oratory, for he was a man of handsome appearance and excellent education. It has been said that Scriven was a Plymouth Brother, but it seems that although he associated with members of that sect, he was a member of no organization, but preached truth as he saw it.

About 1859, the widow with whom he had been living died and Scriven went to live with a family by the name of Seckville, who were Plymouth Brothers, and who lived at Bewdley, a village at the extreme end of Lake Umbagog, where he died. It is only fair to contradict the morbid story that he committed suicide to say that during his illness, while delirious, he wandered from his room and was found in a few minutes lying on the ground, a few inches of the water of Rice Lake, where he had fallen.

At his own request he was buried beside the girl he had loved, in the small, private cemetery on the Pengeley estate on a hill overlooking the lake. On one side is the grave of the girl and on the other, the grave of her uncle, Robert L. Pengeley, commander R.N., who died in 1875.

Besides the poem, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus," Scriven wrote other hymns, some of which are well known and several essays on religious subjects which were deep and true and the utmost simplicity of life.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus."

What a friend we have in Jesus,
What peace we often feel,
O what peace we often feel,
O what peace we often feel,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful,
Who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Saviour, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer;
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Speaks for Itself.

"Are you an experienced aviator?"

"Oh, I've been at it three months and I'm all here."

One day a visitor at a charity bazaar took a young man to a line of booths buying nothing and a lady in a long black dress, who had been looking at him, said to him: "I am here to do it, I have been looking at you for some time and I have decided to buy a pair of shoes for you."

TWO FALLS CONTRASTED.

Our Own Niagara and the Victoria Falls of Zambesi.

While Niagara Falls will continue to hold their own as a mecca for tourists and other travelers, they must henceforth submit to comparison with another natural wonder, the Victoria Falls of the Zambesi, as Africa becomes frequented by tourists. From being a place of mystery, so feared that Livingston, who discovered the falls in 1855, had great difficulty in persuading his followers to accompany him, the falls now are visible from a railway below them, and they lie under the proposed route of the Cape to Cairo railway, which is to be established this autumn.

Louis Livingston Seaman describes what he saw at Victoria Falls and contrasts them with Niagara, as follows:

"Our approach was made by rail from the Victoria Falls station, to the mouth of the Zambesi (that hotbed of micro-organisms, described by Bruce as the most deadly in Africa), and across the narrow belt of swamp and jungle forming the Victoria Falls, which was a most beautiful sight."

"The volcanic plain on which the falls lie is a most beautiful sight. The river flows still and calm, and the banks are covered with a dense growth of rank vegetation, and the air is heavy with the perfume of the flowers. The falls are a most beautiful sight, and the air is heavy with the perfume of the flowers. The falls are a most beautiful sight, and the air is heavy with the perfume of the flowers."

"The morning of the third day we were suddenly awakened by the sound of a gun, and a scene of confusion ensued. The British soldiers were firing their rifles, and the air was filled with the sound of the bullets. The British soldiers were firing their rifles, and the air was filled with the sound of the bullets. The British soldiers were firing their rifles, and the air was filled with the sound of the bullets."

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CANADA OFFERS TRADE CHANCE

To England and British Manufacturers Are Working Hard For It.

New York, Dec. 19.—A Washington despatch to the Journal of Commerce says:

"Vigorous efforts are being made by the British business interests to regain lost trade in Canada, according to reports to this effect reaching the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. One of the results of Canada's great industrial efforts in connection with the war is a large increase in the capacity of Canadian manufacturing plants."

"The financial conditions of the country are excellent," it was said, "and the purchasing power of the Canadian market is probably at the highest point in the history of the country. The reputation of British goods in Canada is high and it now remains for English manufacturers and traders to give the same vigorous attention in the matter of advertising and selling as is given by foreign competitors. The Canadian market must be given special consideration by the manufacturers. It cannot be treated in the same manner as other markets, even though the others may be in the British Empire."

The report said in part:

"The competition of the United States and the proximity of Canada to the United States are some extent responsible for this. Through long trading with the United States, where every facility has been provided to attract the Canadian buyers and through the display of advertising by American manufacturers, the Canadian appetite was Americanized, and the Canadian consumer educated to an honest belief that unless the article of purchase was of American manufacture it was not the best for his particular purpose."

"The demand for competitive lines of English manufactured goods, especially hardware lines, gradually declined; merchants became more or less prejudiced against them. Owing to the regular character of trade, the British manufacturer, no doubt, has his hands full for some time to come, and it will be some time before he can establish his connection before trade drifts back into the hands of his competitors. Canadian merchants are now crossing to England and France for the purpose of establishing new trade connections, and if English manufacturers can take time to visit Canada, the value of this personal contact would be difficult to over-estimate."

"While the United States enjoys the bulk of the foreign trade of Canada, recent events have occurred that may influence importers to look elsewhere for trade connections. One of the most frequent complaints heard is the high rate of exchange. A five per cent discount is charged on the Canadian dollar. A remedy of some kind should be found to overcome this change. Japan accepts the Canadian dollar at its face value, and recent published customs reports show that tremendous increase in trade with that country. Americans should profit by the experience of the English manufacturers in Canada."

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Principal
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