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aug26,21,th,m

Sir John C. Crosbie Interviewed.

Interesting Story of His Visit to Battlefields.

(By Courtesy of the Daily News.)
On Saturday a News representative had the pleasure of an interview with Sir John Crosbie, who returned a few days ago from England. Sir John, who is a keen observer, discussed many matters of first importance to Newfoundland. To-day we publish that part of the interview which should necessarily take precedence, the story of his pilgrimage in company with Major Nangle, who is doing such valuable work in Belgium, France and England, in memory of the dear lads who sealed their invaluable services to the Empire and Homeland with the sacrifice of their bright and noble lives, and on behalf of the parents, relatives and friends, and of all who honoured and loved them, and cherish their memories—and who does not?—in the land whence they went so gallantly on their great crusade. In tomorrow's issue we hope to publish the remainder of the interview.

IN FRANCE AND FLANDERS.

While on the other side I was most anxious to make a pilgrimage to France, and found Major Nangle as he was about to make a tour of the line. "We were very lucky in this respect to have the opportunity of going over the hallowed ground with one who knows it better than any other man in Newfoundland. He, I think, was also glad of our company because, although some people in Newfoundland may think that he has a "soft job" and is having an enjoyable time, they are greatly mistaken. It was very interesting to us to go over the line, but to one who is out in that desolate region continuously, in all kinds of weather, unaccompanied, and working at a gruesome task it is an undertaking which very few would undertake unless they had their whole "oul" in the work, and the great desire is to in some way alleviate the sufferings of the relatives in Newfoundland.

I said that no other man in Newfoundland knows the line better than Major Nangle, but more than that, he can bring you to the graveside of any man you wish to mention, if the body was ever recovered. The magnitude of the task in hand was never brought home to me until I visited Beaumont Hamel, and there Lady Crosbie and myself found a wreath near one of the trenches; we thought Major

Nangle had lost it there, while distributing the wreaths on the 1st of July. But, bringing the matter to his attention, he explained to us that there was a Newfoundland under that wreath, that he had discovered the remains a week or so before and was then waiting for a working party to remove the body to a cemetery. This struck me very forcibly as showing the capable way in which Major Nangle had the matter in hand and continued the interest he was taking in every one of our deceased soldiers.

YPRES AND HOOGE.

We started our trip by visiting Ypres. Well, Ypres beggars description. It is impossible for any man to describe it in cold print, but standing there in that great square before the old historical Cloth Hall, a wave of hatred swept over me as I thought of the devilry of that supposedly cultured race, and the Town Mayor, who out of sheer hatred destroyed this town; but soon that first wave of hate had passed and I was filled with another emotion as I read the sign: "This is holy ground. Not a stone of this fabric may be taken away. It is a heritage for all civilized peoples." I thought of the 250,000 casualties incurred by our Army in the historical defence of that town. And as I stood on the ramparts, (under which our Regiment was at one time bottled) and looked out over that vast salient, I thought of how our boys from Newfoundland, unlearned in arms, came there, and side by side with the trained armies of France and England, took their part in that titanic struggle, and took that part right well. We visited practically the whole of the salient, and to my mind the most impressive sight in that dead land was Hooze. There we found 27 derelict tanks all within a radius of 200 yards, knocked out in trying to capture the ridge. To me it was typical of the British bulldog spirit, the way in which these gallant men went forward in these tanks knowing that if they were hit their chances of escape were practically nil, but still they never flinched—just went right straight ahead.

MONCHY-LE-PREUX.

Our next point of interest was Arras and Monchy-le-Preux. Here Major Nangle brought us to the site

he had selected for our memorial, and it certainly is a wonderful place. As we stood there we could see about twenty miles in all directions. Cambrai to the S.E., Vimy to the N.W., Arras to the West, and a very short distance to the East, Infantry Hill, the objective which was set our men in the fatal attack of April 14, 1917.

BEAUMONT HAMEL.

From Monchy we went direct to Amiens, from which city we visited the field which to Newfoundlanders will always appeal more than any other section of the line, that is Beaumont Hamel. We approached from behind the line. First Major Nangle brought us to Louvecourt, in which he showed us the first Newfoundland stone erected by the Imp. War Graves Commission over the remains of 843, Pte. R. W. Heale. This is a small cemetery just finished. It is enclosed by a wall of Portland stone brought out from England. On one side of the cemetery you have the Cross of Sacrifice on which is fixed the bronze Crusader's Sword, opposite this cross you have the Immense Stone of Remembrance and on it is carved the motto: "Their name liveth for evermore." Each soldier has a headstone on which is carved his name and particulars, regimental badge and plain cross. The graves are levelled off and sodded, flowers are planted on each grave, and the whole thing looks very very pretty, simple but very impressive.

AUCHONVILLERS.

We next visited the little villages of Auchonvillers and Mailly-Maillet. From here we went over the very bad roads to Auchonvillers, which is nearer to the battlefield than Beaumont Hamel. Having unsuccessfully looked for some trace of the village, we left the place by a road leading to Hamel, which was called St. John's Road by the 29th Division, as a compliment to our boys. We crossed over the bridges, under which ran the communication trenches such as Tipperary Avenue, Thurlow Dump, etc., and continued on the road until we came to the trench called Carlisle Road. Here we got out of the car and walked along Carlisle Street, Fethard Street and Terra Nova Street until we came to a trench, Major Nangle called Harrow Row, where it meets a communication trench named North Alley. This is the site for our memorial. From this point you can see all the country and when the memorial is erected there, it will be seen for miles and miles. From this point we went to Danger Tree, from there out into No Man's Land and visited the cemeteries. Here we found the resting place of many of our boys, including Frank Lind, whose letters to the Daily News were read with so much interest by every one in Newfoundland. Major Nangle afterwards showed us the spot where Lind fell and where the body was found a year later. By Lind's side is the grave of Sgt. Tom Carroll from Bell Island, who is supposed to have got further than any other man on the 1st of July. In all the cemeteries it was

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very easy to find Newfoundlanders, because on July 1st Major Nangle had laid a wreath on each grave. We therefore only had to glance over the cemetery to know immediately where to look for our dead.

"Y" RAVINE AND THE MINE CRATER.

From the cemeteries in No Man's Land we passed on to "Y" Ravine, a depression in the soil of about 60 feet,—it looked to me as if it had at one time been the bed of a river. This was used as a communication trench by the Boche. They also had dugouts underneath the place, so it was impossible to shell them out of it. Before leaving "Y" Ravine we looked back towards our own line and then I understood what a hopeless task our men were sent on, on that bright July morning. From the Ravine we passed on to the Mine Crater. We were shown where our mine was begun, the long tunnel underground and then the result—an immense hole in the ground 120 yards long, 80 yards wide and 40 yards deep. Pity that this mine did not do the work intended for it, but by some mistake or other it was short of the objective, at the same time it must have inflicted severe loss on the Germans and destroyed the morale of those within for a mile or two. I did not understand Major Nangle's idea in wishing to purchase the whole of Beaumont Hamel as a memorial, but now I do understand, for that bit of ground has folded to its breast almost 400 of our gallant boys, of whom very few have been found and re-interred in cemeteries. That bit of ground is no longer France, it is Newfoundland, and it is the duty of whatever Government is in power to see that Newfoundland does not forget it and that they give Major Nangle all the backing he asks for in the matter. The ground has been bought by public subscription, but it will be the duty of the Dominion to fix it out and retain it in proper condition, and see that it does not become a disgrace instead of an honor to our gallant regiment. I might add that Major Nangle told me that Lady and Miss Crosbie were the first ladies to tramp through those trenches, through the old barbed wire and overcome all the difficulties of this ground which have often given a great deal of trouble to able-bodied men.

A Financial Announcement of Importance.

In order to meet to best advantage the investment requirements of our large and rapidly growing clientele in Newfoundland, we have completed arrangements with BAIRD & COMPANY, Water Street, St. John's, to act as our local representatives. They will be at all times prepared to furnish particulars and quotations on government, municipal, public utility and industrial bonds, as well as on preferred and common shares of the better class of securities.

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aug26,31

GUEDECOURT.

We also visited the Somme and spent an afternoon at Guedecourt, where Capt. Jim Donnelly, Lieut. Clift and Norris, and so many of our men gave their lives on the 12th of October, 1918. On the way back from the battlefield we made a pilgrimage to the grave of the Idol of the Regiment, one of God's masterpieces, the very gallant Capt. Gus O'Brien. I also understand that Major Nangle has taken a cinematograph of the whole of the line and billets from Les Boeufs to Ypres as a pictorial record of the Regiment.

WANDSWORTH.

On arriving in England I saw by the Newfoundland papers that there was a lot of talk about Wandsworth. I visited that cemetery and found it in good condition and a gang of men working at the masonry,—before leaving England I again visited the place and found it the best plot in England. There are 15 Newfoundlanders' graves in the plot; each grave has a white cross on which are the soldier's particulars. In the centre of the plot there is a Cornish granite cross, standing about 9 feet high, with the caribou head in the centre, and on the base the inscription from Kipling: "Simple service, simply given to their own kind in their common need." The whole is enclosed by a border of Portland stone, and the Superintendent told me that when the proper season comes Major Nangle is having a hedge planted. One thing that struck me in this cemetery is that it contains the body of Miss Bertha Bartlett, daughter of Robert Bartlett, of Glenora, Briga. Miss Bartlett, I understand, was the only nurse from Newfoundland to die on active service. In Wandsworth, as in France, each grave had its wreath of cypress leaves, and on the day we were there all the visitors to the cemetery paused to admire the plot. I did not have an opportunity of visiting Brookwood or any of our other large cemeteries, but if Major Nangle has given them the same attention that he has given Wandsworth, they are a credit to this Dominion.

Railroad Agents and Operators Organize.

On Saturday night the Telegraphers and Agents of the Reid Newfoundland Co.'s system held a meeting in the rooms occupied by the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen in the C.I.B. Armoury. Mr. J. M. Mein, President of the Order of Railroad Telegraphers and Agents, arrived in the city on Saturday afternoon and met the Telegraphers and Agents of the Reid system at the time and place stated. The meeting was largely attended by telegraphers and agents from various points along the system. Mr. Mein is a man of large experience in his work and is a member of the Labour Board of Canada, as well as a Vice-President of the American and Canadian Federation of Labour. With the forming up of the agents and operators, the whole of the Newfoundland railway employees are now organized under the same international unions as are the railway employees of Canada and United States.

Sagana Arrives From Labrador.

The Sagana, Capt. Burgess, arrived from the Labrador Saturday evening having been as far north as Nain. Fine weather was met the whole trip, and considering every port of call was made and a large freight loaded, splendid time was made. The Sagana brought 280 packages of freight and the following passengers to this port: D. Kiely, Miss M. Bishop, Mrs. E. Brown, Miss E. Latrobe, Miss A. E. Hamilton, Mrs. D. F. Piercey and two children, Col. Dennis, A. W. Bishop, Mrs. M. Pike, H. W. Daird, J. Crookshank, W. Barnes, G. W. Williamson, Miss A. Powell, H. L. Burnham, Miss E. Sweetland, W. Homston and five in steerage.

NOTICE

— TO —

Masters of Foreign-going and Coastwise Vessels.

Requisitions for liquor for foreign-going vessels sailing from this port must be accompanied by Customs' Clearance of the vessel for which the liquor is intended. Applicants for liquor for coastwise or Labrador vessels must produce clearance or coasting license with each application.

Mail Orders for liquor for vessels departing from ports outside St. John's, Foreign voyages, Coastwise or Labrador must be accompanied by certificate from nearest Customs Officer that such vessel is ready for sea.

Telegraphic Orders for Spirits for vessels of any class departing on Foreign or Coastwise voyages from ports outside St. John's will be honored only when endorsed by telegram from Customs' Officer direct to Controller.

J. T. MEANEY,

aug27,31

Acting Controller.

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