

## TWO CONNAUGHT STORIES

LAST summer on the occasion of the visit of the Queen's Own Rifles of Toronto to England, the regiment was several times visited by the Duke of Connaught, now Governor-General of Canada. On one occasion, the Duke was chatting with Lieut.-Col. Percy Mason, second in command of the Queen's Own, and he asked Col. Mason if he had seen such and such a history of the British army. Col. Mason replied that he had not, but remarked that he would be greatly interested in looking it up. The Duke thereupon offered to send Col. Mason the work and asked for his home address. This was given, and Col. Mason thought little more of the incident. However, on his return to Toronto he found that the "small" work had arrived. It consisted of seventeen handsomely bound, beautifully printed and fully illustrated volumes—a monumental, high-priced military history. And on the title-page of the first volume was the name of the Queen's Own officer, and the compliments and signature of His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught.

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### The Duke as a Deserter.

EW people are aware that the Duke of Connaught was once posted as a deserter. It was while he was General-in-command of the troops at the great military camp of Aldershot.

He obtained leave of absence from the Secretary of War, then Lord Lansdowne, and from his kinsman, the old Duke of Cambridge, then Com-

mander-in-Chief of the army, to spend a fortnight at Balmoral with Queen Victoria. While there the Duchess received news of the sudden death of her favourite sister, and the royal couple hastened off to Germany to attend the funeral.

They returned via Paris, and in the course of a drive to St. Cloud were so much enchanted by the scenery that they leased a couple of furnished villas, sent over to England for their children, and took up their residence there the Duke writing to the Queen that the Duchess stood in need of a change of scene before returning to Aldershot. It never occurred to him that he was outstaying his leave of absence.

In the course of time the Chief of Staff at Aldershot as in duty bound, reported to the Secretary of State for War that his chief, the Duke, had not yet returned to his post, although his leave of absence had expired. Lord Lansdowne thereupon conveyed official information to this effect to the generalissimo of the forces, and the old Duke of Cambridge gravely and in pursuance of the ordinary routine observed under such circumstances issued written instructions to the Provost Marshal of the Army to cause a search to be made for "His Royal Highness Arthur William, Duke of Connaught, K.G., age 45 years, General commanding at Aldershot, and reported as missing from his post, without leave." Needless to say, this breach of military regulations on the part of the Duke had no other result than a good deal of chaff and fun at his expense.

## EARL GREY AS A HOCKEY FAN

(From the Ottawa Free Press.)

IT will be seven years ago next January that Earl Grey got his first glimpse of that gentle Canadian pastime, hockey. His Excellency was serving his first year as Governor-General of Canada and had been in the Capital but two months. On the festive occasion referred to, Joe Boyle's Klondyke hockey seven made a five thousand mile trip from Dawson City to play the Ottawas for the Stanley Cup. It was the uniqueness of the long journey rather than the prospects of a great match that attracted a big gathering to Dey's Gladstone Avenue rink, with Earl Grey holding down a special box over the entrance end. The contest was a veritable blow off for Ottawa, but His Excellency got his first idea of the seriousness with which players took their hockey in those days when Norman Watt, of the Klondyke team, beamed Arthur Moore, the Ottawa coverpoint, over the head with his stick, creating an aperture that required a spool of surgeon's thread to button up. Not frightened by the strenuousness of the sport, the Governor was a frequent visitor at Dey's rink during the remainder of the Federal League season, being present on the occasion of that famous Ottawa-Brockville match that resembled a barbecue.

Earl Grey really became a hockey fan, but never attained the "rooting" stage till the second sawoff game between Ottawa and Wanderers in 1906 when the Ottawas set themselves a task of cutting down an eight goal lead Wanderers ran up in Montreal. To make it all the more difficult Wanderers scored the first goal of the game in Ottawa, giving them a lead of nine. One by one Ottawa reduced their arrears till finally the score on the series stood—Wanderers 10; Ottawa 9. Five minutes was left to play and the crowd was bleeding from the mouth with excitement. Harry Smith got the puck from a centre face and dashed in single handed and tied the score.

The whole rink climbed to its feet and roared. Both the ordinary spectator didn't have anything on the commotion in the vice-regal box. His Excellency stood up and hurled his fur cap to the rafters. Lady Grey was beside him frantically waving her

muff. They called Smith over to their box and showered him with congratulations. In fact had it been the time and place, Harry might have been made a peer or Knight of the Garter on the spot.

The game re-started and Frank McGee scored in jig time, but it was called off-side. Then the Ottawa cylinder head blew out. The men had expended all their energy in cutting down the lead. Wanderers rattled in two in the remaining four minutes, winning the Stanley Cup.

With his departure, Ottawa lost in Earl Grey a good sportsman and one who boosted particularly for athletics in the Capital. He attended football and lacrosse as well as hockey matches. As a golfer he was just about as keen as they are found and spent many of his spare hours on the Ottawa links. Being a splendid horseman he frequently followed the hounds at the Ottawa Hunt and travelled side by side with the most daring rider in the club.

His Excellency also took two prominent sportswomen from the Capital in his daughters, Lady Sybil, one of the best golfers at the Ottawa Club, who participated in the recent championship, and Lady Evelyn, who has achieved international reputation as a fancy skater, winning honours in Canada and the United States in this particular line.

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