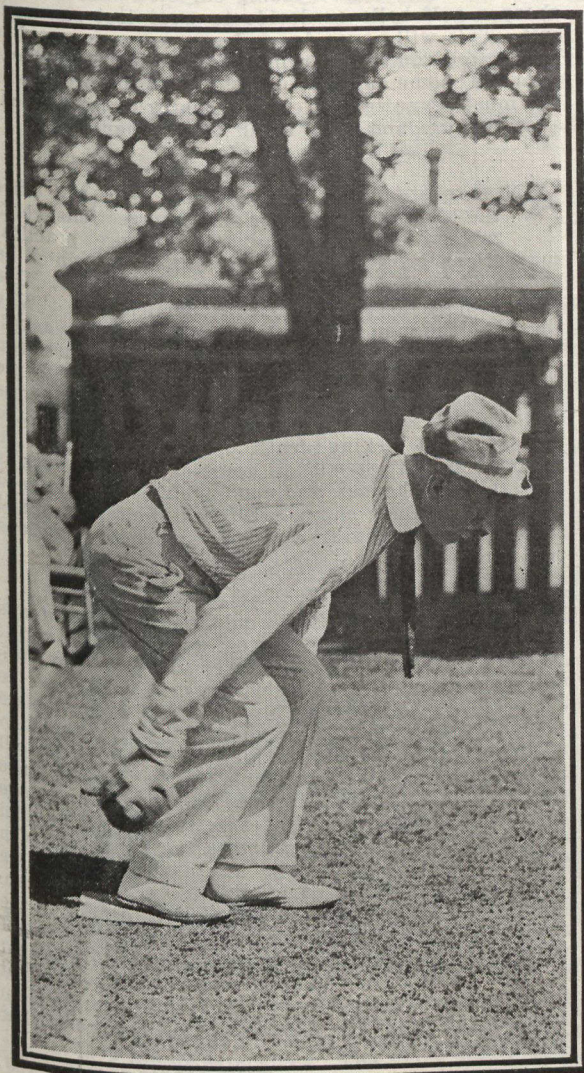


FAMOUS BOWLERS AT NIAGARA

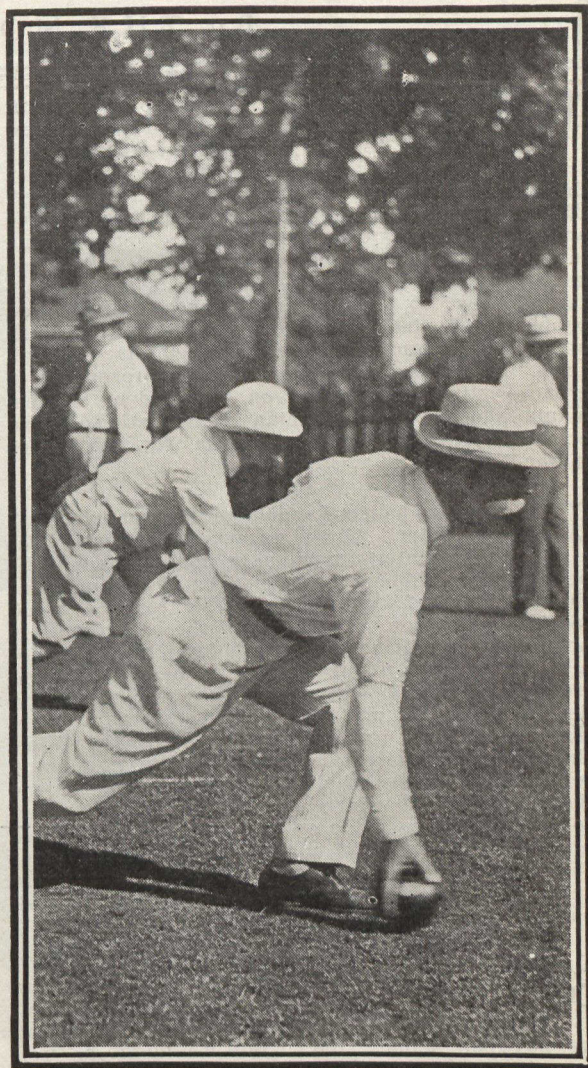


Sir John Willison (Canada Rink), the most famous journalist bowler in Canada, defeating the famous John Rennie (Granite) 13—10.



R. H. Brydon, from Guelph, was defeated by Dr. Crawford, from the Fernleigh Rink, Hamilton, 17—7.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE forgot the sound of the bugle last week when the annual bowling tournament of the Ontario Bowling Association pitched its marquees in the military town. Several of the most eminent players from Ontario gave the tournament a tinge of human interest. Sir John Willison, eminent journalist, is equally famous as a bowler. In the semi-finals of the Association Match he beat Dr. Paul, from his own rink (Canada), 14—13, and in the final tussle with Mr. John Rennie (Granite) he won out by 13—10. In the Consolation finals, President Creelman was beaten by Dr. Paul, 16—15. The honours went to Hamilton "Fernleighs" and the "Canadas," from Toronto.



Dr. Paul (Canada) defeating President Creelman, of the O. A. C., Guelph, by a narrow squeak of 16—15. Guelph was badly beaten more than once.

THE GREATEST BATTLE OF THE WAR

By NORMAN PATTERSON

ALL the military critics agree that not one of all the military critics of the period foresaw the nature of this Great War, although the War itself was clearly outlined in advance. It was the vastness and greatness of the armies engaged which was least foreseen. Sir Gilbert Parker, in his new book, "The World in the Crucible," gives credit to Mr. H. G. Wells for having, of all writers, most clearly forecasted what would occur; but even he thought that 400,000 men could hold the Franco-Belgian frontier because of swift and adequate transportation. Troops could be moved from one point to another by railways and motor cars in such a way that small armies would suffice. Yet in the greatest battle of the war, on a short front, two million men were engaged.

That greatest battle of this Great War was the Battle of Ypres, which began on October 20th and finished on November 12th. At the Battle of Leipzig, in 1813, 472,000 troops were engaged; at Waterloo, 217,000; at Sadowa, 1866, 436,000; at Sedan, 244,000; at Gravelotte, 301,000; at Mukden, 1905, 701,000; and at Lile Burgas, 1912, 400,000. These are the great battles of the immediate past. But the Battle of Ypres set a new standard for size. The French and British, acting on the defensive, had 500,000 men. The Germans, in the attack, had three times that number. The casualties on the side of the Allies was about 100,000, and on the side of the Germans, 250,000.

Nor do figures alone tell the story. Other features of this engagement were equally remarkable and uniquely modern. The German march on Paris had been stopped and the five great armies thrown back over the Aisne and the Marne. The Allies were preparing to take the offensive again after a period of rest and reconstruction, when the great outflanking movement to the west began. The German armies moved quietly to La Basse and the Hill of Cassel. Holding these points lightly they moved on Arras, Ypres and Dixmude.

There were three routes to Calais—the Yser, La Basse and Arras. The Germans first chose Arras, and from October 6th to the 26th, the French forces under Maud'huy fought stubbornly in resistance. The La Basse port to the coast was held by the British and the Yser by the Belgians. Foiled at Arras, the Germans turned to the Yser, and that port was

closed only when the plains were flooded and Dixmude a heap of ruins.

Then came the Battle of Ypres. The best short description of it has been given by a French eyewitness, and appears in the London Times of June 24th. Here it is:

THE BATTLE OF YPRES.

"BY the last week of October the attack on the three passages had slackened, and the bulk of the enemy's strength was directed against Ypres. The little city had no value in itself and it commanded no main highway to the coast; but the salient east of it seems to have exercised in the German High Command that peculiar illogical attraction which salients possess. In the battle of Ypres, which began on October 20 and ended on November 12—the greatest battle of the war, and perhaps the greatest as yet in human history—the British Army held most of the line. They had on the whole the heaviest fighting, for they held the most critical points—the front of the salient at Gheluvelt and the southern re-entrant on the Klein Zillebeke ridge. This, I think, our generous Allies would acknowledge; but it is fair to add that without French assistance Ypres could not have been held, and Germany would have won her passage to the coast. Apart from the fact that Maud'huy at Arras and Grossetti on the Yser saved our flanks from being turned, detachments of D'Urba's army played an invaluable part in the actual battle of the salient. I will take two instances only. On October 30, Sir Douglas Haig borrowed from the French 9th Corps three battalions and one cavalry brigade. The three battalions, under General Moussy, whose recent death we deplore, took up position on the Klein Zillebeke ridge between Bulfin's detachment and Allenby's cavalry. The French had come to our assistance in the nick of time, as sixty years before at the same season of the year they had come to our aid at Inkerman. On the terrible morning of the 31st, Moussy kept the line intact by a desperate effort. Reinforcements were necessary, and he collected every man he could lay hands on, cooks and orderlies and transport drivers, and dismounted the Cuirassiers of his escort. The adventure prospered, the line held, and when

that afternoon the charge of the Worcesters relieved Gheluvelt, our position on the salient was intact.

"A second instance is the superb fight of Dubois's 9th Corps, which held the line from Zonnebeke to Bixschoote with the aid of Bidon's Territorial Divisions and part of De Mitry's 2nd Cavalry Corps. He had to face the bulk of the four new German formations which had been first launched against the British, as well as the left wing of the Wurtemberg Army on the Yser.

SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE ALLIES.

"THE battle of Ypres, apart from its strategic importance, will always occupy a special place among the battles of the war. In the retreat from Mons, at the Marne, and at the Aisne we had our Allies on each side of us, but at Ypres we mingled with them, and each learned at close quarters the prowess of the other. We are still fighting there in conjunction. He who visits that blood-stained salient to-day will see as many French as British troops on the road from Poperinghe. He will hear the French 75mm. guns speaking beside the English 18-pounder, and see the lean, brown, tirailleurs moving alongside the solid British infantry. At Ypres there began that new respect and admiration between the Allies which comes only to eyewitnesses. The three-weeks' battle was in a sense a more significant achievement than the Marne. It marked the defeat of the second great German offensive. It cost the enemy a quarter of a million men. It inaugurated that winter stalemate which bore more hardly on Germany than on the Allies, and which gave France time to reorganize her levies and supplement her resources. It also established finally—if there had ever been any doubt of it—the supreme military talent of General Joffre and General Foch. The French reserves were not yet ready, but General Joffre managed to collect reinforcements when the call came. Apart from the new armies holding the front, he sent up during the actual fighting not less than five Army Corps by rail and motor. It was Foch's task to make his scanty reserves go as far as possible, placing a division here and a division there, as the stress of battle altered. Only under the most brilliant leading could half a million men between Albert and the sea have beaten off at least three times their number."