

DIARY OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF THE 60th BATTALION.

(Continued from page 4)

ment, and had gained possession of our front line for about 1¼ miles. The Sixtieth marched to the Ypres Canal and lined some old trenches there, and then during the early hours of June 3rd moved along the China Wall to the R line at Hooze. I called at the Dressing Station at the Ypres Asylum on the way and later took charge of the Dressing Station in the Menin Cellars. From 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. I put through 200 cases, many of them very bad.

On the night of the 4th of June the Battalion moved to the right and relieved the Princess Patricia's in the Reserve Line at Sanctuary Wood, which was then our front line. The body of Col. Buller, O.C. of the "Pats", was in one of the dugouts, and their dead and wounded were scattered thickly about, as they, like ourselves, had been having a hard time of it, and had been unable to evacuate their casualties.

We held this position until June 7th, when we were relieved, and returned to Camp E.

Our casualties during the five days were 350, among them being:—

Officers killed

Capt. Vessey, Lieuts. Gallon, Macfarlane and Campbell.

Officers wounded

Captains Creighton, Donnelly, Redmond and Skinner, Lieutenants Edgar, Hingston, Gordon and Miller.

This period includes what are known as the Battles of Hooze and Sanctuary Wood and was very costly for the Canadian Corps, the Casualties amounting practically to the equivalent of a whole Division. The Germans in spite of their initial success, were always in a state of nervousness, especially at night, when the entire length of the Front Line was brilliantly illuminated by flares of various colours—white, red and green. It was just like a display of fireworks, and really very pretty as a spectacle, if one could only have forgotten the ugly sights in and around the trenches.

The enemy apparently had a wholesome respect for the fighting qualities of Canadians, as they

attempted no further advance after the 2nd of June, although they had obliterated our front and support trenches at Sanctuary Wood and Maple Copse by an enormous expenditure of ammunition, besides smashing almost everything in the rear, including the reserve lines and communication trenches. A counter-attack on the 12th of June by the First Division ejected them from what they had occupied at heavy cost, and the original line was re-established.

June 13th.—We marched up to the front, and occupied trenches 59-66 in Sanctuary Wood, and returned to Camp A on the 15th, after a quiet but uncomfortable tour.

June 15th.—While here we had a Sports Day and a competition in First Aid, in which the Stretcher Bearers of the Sixtieth won the championship of the 9th Brigade. We received drafts to complete our strength.

June 30th.—Back to Hooze and ye Olde Mill. Trenches 63-74 which had been re-captured from the Germans.

(To be concluded.)

FURTHER DETAILS ABOUT PENSIONS.

The Director of Repatriation, H. J. Daly, issues an announcement of the activities of the Repatriation Committee of the Dominion Cabinet. The work of the committee covers all questions which have to do with bringing soldiers back to civil life and maintaining the prosperity of the country during the change from war to peace. It secures co-operation between the Government departments which are concerned with these questions, obtains the assistance of experts for special problems, prevents overlapping of efforts, and hastens effective action. The assistance of provincial and municipal authorities, of the Great War Veterans' Association and of many voluntary organizations has been secured.

The following are questions and answers regarding pensions:

What is Canada's yearly pension bill? The Minister of Finance says \$30,000,000 or more.

How many pensions are being paid by the Government at the present time? Over 60,000.

What is the Board of Pension Commissioners? It is a government body composed of three men

each appointed for ten years and each devoting his whole time to his duties as commissioner, for the purpose of administering pensions promptly, smoothly, and fairly.

Is it a civil or a military body? Civil.

Where is the head office? At Ottawa.

Has it any branch offices? Yes.

Where are they? At the following eighteen centres in Canada: Calgary, Alta.; Charlottetown, P.E.I.; Edmonton, Alta.; Halifax, N.S.; Hamilton, Ont.; Kingston, Ont.; London, Ont.; Montreal, P.Q.; Ottawa, Ont.; Quebec, P.Q.; Regina, Sask.; St. John, N.B.; Saskatoon, Sask.; Sydney, N.S.; Toronto, Ont.; Vancouver, B.C.; Victoria, B.C.; Winnipeg, Man.

There are also offices in London, England, and the Pensions and Disabilities Board, St. John, Nfld.

Where does a soldier's dependent apply for pension? At the nearest branch office.

What else do the branch offices do? They send visitors to call on pensioners in their homes, hold medical re-examinations, and handle complaints.

If a man is dissatisfied with a pension how should he proceed? He should apply to the district office where a medical re-examination will be held.

What is a pension? It is compensation paid as a right to any soldier or sailor who was disabled during his service, provided medical treatment fails to restore his full normal capacity.

Are all soldiers entitled to pensions? No. Pension is not awarded for a service only, it is payable only for disability.

How is the amount of pension fixed? It is based on the extent of the handicap suffered. The percentages have been carefully worked out so as to be both accurate and fair.

Who decides the percentage of the handicap? A medical board.

Is a man allowed to express his opinion about his disability? Yes. The relationship between the Medical Board and the pension applicant is that of doctor and patient. Every opportunity is given to have the man's condition judged from his own point of view.

On what is the amount of pension based? The amount is based purely on the extent of the handicap and is intended to enable a disabled soldier or sailor to live despite his handicap on equal terms

with those who have suffered no handicap.

Is a man's pension reduced if he is able to earn a good living without it? No, the money he may be able to earn, or the money he earned before the war does not affect the amount of his pension.

If a man increases his earning capacity by the Government Vocational training, is his pension reduced accordingly? No.

Does pension vary according to rank? Yes, officers receive more than men, and officers of high rank receive more than those of low rank.

Does pension vary according to a man's trade or profession? No.

What is the minimum pension for a totally disabled soldier or sailor of the lowest rank? \$600 a year with \$96 extra for each child.

How often are pension cheques distributed? Monthly.

Are widows of soldiers and sailors entitled to pension? Yes, so long as they do not re-marry.

Are children of soldiers and sailors who died on service entitled to pension? Yes, boys up to the age of 16, and girls up to the age of 17.

Is pension granted to parents of a soldier or sailor? Only under the following circumstances: When pension is not payable to his widow and when it can be established that the deceased soldier or sailor was their main support previous to his death.

Where can one obtain a complete schedule of the pensions? By writing to the Board of Pension Commissioners, Union Bank Building, Ottawa.

Only The Beer Boy.

Outside a military prison, at the back of the line, a sentry was doing guard. One of the cell windows, with bars very wide apart, looked out into the street, and underneath this a small boy constantly hovered.

After an hour or two, the sentry began to get suspicious, but whenever he approached the spot the boy vanished.

At last he succeeded in cornering the urchin.

"Now, then," he said sternly, "what do you mean by hanging around here?"

The boy grinned largely.

"It's all right, monsieur," he replied, looking up at the barred window. "I am the boy that fetches the beer."