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The Beaver:

A Live Weekly for Canadians Overseas.

LONDON: MAY 3rd, 1919.

Editorial Offices: 49 Bedford Square, W.C. 1.

RUMOUR!

Dame Rumour is a mischievous jade but fools still listen to her. They even do her the honour of taking her at her face value. The more absurd the rumour is the more there are who will resolutely believe it. The more it is denied the more convinced they are that it is absolutely true. Once set on foot, rumour loses nothing as it travels. On the contrary it gains greatly in picturesqueness, in wealth of detail and in verisimilitude. Whispered here and whispered there it assumes the aspect of the real thing. The art of setting rumour afloat is, we understand, colloquially referred to as "getting the wind up." The result is a hurricane of doubt, mistrust, speculation, conjecture and worry. It is a stupid practice and causes real harm as well as pain and annoyance to those most closely concerned. The "Government intend to do so and so. The Ministry has arranged this and that. The military authorities have made up their minds to do something. War service gratuities are to be stopped. Demobilisation is to be held up pending a settlement with the 'Bolshies.' There is no work for the returned soldier in Canada"—Dame Rumour spins on irresponsible and unconcerned. If it were stated that the sea was likely to dry before all Canadian dependents could be repatriated some one would give it credence, for has not Canada and the States gone dry already. Take it for granted that truth is always tamer than fiction, and that the men at the top are capable business men who know what they are about. Human nature being much of a muchness the world over what one fellow does another would probably do in similar circumstances. The best way to treat Dame Rumour therefore is to cut her dead and get on with the next business.

FOR REFLECTION.

Patience is a necessary ingredient of genius.
—Disraeli.

DEEDS OF DARING.

185 HUNS.

Lieut. Graham Thomson Lyall, 102nd
Bn., 2nd Central Ontario Regiment, was
awarded the V.C. for most conspicuous



bravery
and skilful
leading
during the
operations
north of
Cambrai.

On Sept.
27th, 1918,
while
leading his
platoon
against
Bourlon
Wood, he
rendered
invaluable
support to
the lead-
ing com-
pany,
which was

held up by a strong point, which he captured, by a flank movement, together with thirteen prisoners, one field gun and four machine guns.

Later, his platoon, now much weakened by casualties, was held up by machine guns at the southern end of Bourlon Wood. Collecting any men available, he led them towards the strong point, and springing forward alone, rushed the position single-handed and killed the officer in charge, subsequently capturing at this point forty-five prisoners and five machine guns. Having made good his final objective, with a further capture of forty-seven prisoners, he consolidated his position and thus protected the remainder of the company.

During two days of operations Lieut. Lyall captured in all three officers, 182 other ranks, 26 machine guns, and one field gun, exclusive of heavy casualties inflicted. He showed throughout the utmost valour and high powers of command.

THE M.O.

The Victoria
Cross was
awarded to
Major F. A. C.
Scrimger, of
the C.A.M.C.,
for an excep-
tionally brave
deed.

On April
25th, 1915, in
the neigh-
bourhood of
Ypres, when
in charge of
an advanced
dressing
station in
farm build-
ings heavily
shelled by enemy, he directed under heavy
fire the removal of the wounded, and himself
carried a severely wounded officer out of a
stable in search of place of greater safety.

When alone he was unable to carry this
officer further, he remained with him under
heavy fire till help could be obtained.

During very heavy fighting between April
22nd—25th, he displayed, day and night, the
greatest devotion to duty among the wounded
at the front. Major Scrimger was M.O. of
the 14th Battalion and is the second or third
Canadian M.O. to receive the V.C.

