

## HAIG NOT HELPED BY POLITICIANS

Field Marshal Gives First Interview to Newspaper Man

Objects to Interference of Politicians in Military Plans — Has Prepared Secret History of the War — The Decisive Day.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)  
A few days ago Field Marshal Earl Haig gave to Frank Scudamore, a veteran British war correspondent, what is said to be the first interview he has ever granted to a newspaper man. The interview was designed for circulation in the United States, where a few days earlier a statement by Marshal Petain seemed to disparage the American soldier and especially the methods of training at West Point. Earl Haig spoke proudly of the American soldiers, and said that if in recent speeches he had appeared not to give them their due it was because in these cases he had just received the freedom of the city in which the address was made, and as his hearers were for the most part demobilized British soldiers, it was natural that he should devote his utterances to a eulogy of the county regiments. We consider the apology ample, especially when the field marshal proceeded to declare that he yielded to nobody in his admiration for the great American armies that fought in the war.

**Foolish Politicians.**  
The field marshal then proceeded to a general discussion of the war, in which he made it plain that like all other distinguished soldiers he strongly objects to the interference of politicians in military plans once war is in progress. As far as he was concerned he could recall no useful assistance rendered in the military sphere by politicians. He said that so many of them spend their lives in an effort to attain office that they have not time to study history and learn the factors that make empires. He said that at different times the political chiefs in London, Paris and Rome formed definite opinions as to the line of action that would be adopted by the enemy in certain circumstances and at certain dates, and he adds: "It is noteworthy that in no single instance were these predictions accurate. The definite anticipations they formed were never justified by events." When pessimism might have been justified the politicians were unanimously optimistic. When optimism was natural they were filled with forebodings. Just two months before the Germans signed the armistice the field marshal visited London in order to tell the authorities



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that he regarded the war as being near the last paragraph of the last page. He said that as a result of the constant hammering the German power of resistance could not possibly last out the year. "But," he says, "the people at home would have nothing to do with my conclusions. They had evidently resolved in their minds that the crucial period of the war—the determining phase—would begin in the first week in the month of July, 1919. Although I received a most friendly hearing I felt that I was regarded as an optimist and that I had not prevailed on them to alter their minds." One can only comment on this, that if the politicians refused to accept the judgment of the commander-in-chief of the British armies on so technical a matter, it is a wonder that the war was won. Perhaps similar conditions prevailed in the enemy armies. The correspondent was struck by the extreme modesty of the house occupied by the field marshal. It is simply a roomy villa on Kingston Hill, close to Richmond, which was secured by Lady Haig for herself and children when her husband was in France. It stands in a pretty garden of no great extent and is one of thousands of such houses occupied by moderately well-to-do business men in London.

**The Decisive Days of the War.**  
The hall leading to the library where the interview took place bore testimony to the sporting tastes of the owner, for on stands and racks were arrayed guns and rifles, fishing rods, riding whips and golf clubs, and the fact that these personal treasures were thus displayed argued the absence of a gunroom. There is an apartment at Eastcott which might have served as gunroom had it not been

adapted to another purpose, and a more important one. It contains what will undoubtedly prove to be the greatest treasure of the Haig family for all time to come. This is the great war map of the western front on which Haig and his staff worked out their plans throughout the whole course of the war, and on which the changing positions of the opposing forces were recorded from day to day during the struggle. There are, of course, hundreds of smaller maps. The favorite map of the field marshal is that showing the position of the armies on Sept. 27, which he regards as the decisive day of the war. On this map there is this note in Earl Haig's hand, "British broke the Hindenburg line on 27th September, 1918."

**Secret History of the War.**  
The map room is locked and guarded. The lynx-eyed correspondent did not fail to note that when the host prepared to escort him thither he drew from a locked drawer in his study the key that gives access to the treasure house. There is something else in the house that is priceless. This is the secret history of the war which has been compiled by the field marshal. It will not be made public for perhaps fifty years, or until those who played the chief roles in the conflict have passed away. A copy of this work has been made, and has been placed with the British Museum for safe keeping, in case anything untoward should happen to the original. It is said by the correspondent that Earl Haig is a poor man. He is a poor man, of course, in comparison with Wellington, who received nearly £1,000,000 from his country besides his great estate of Stratfieldsaye, and Apsley House in London. Haig

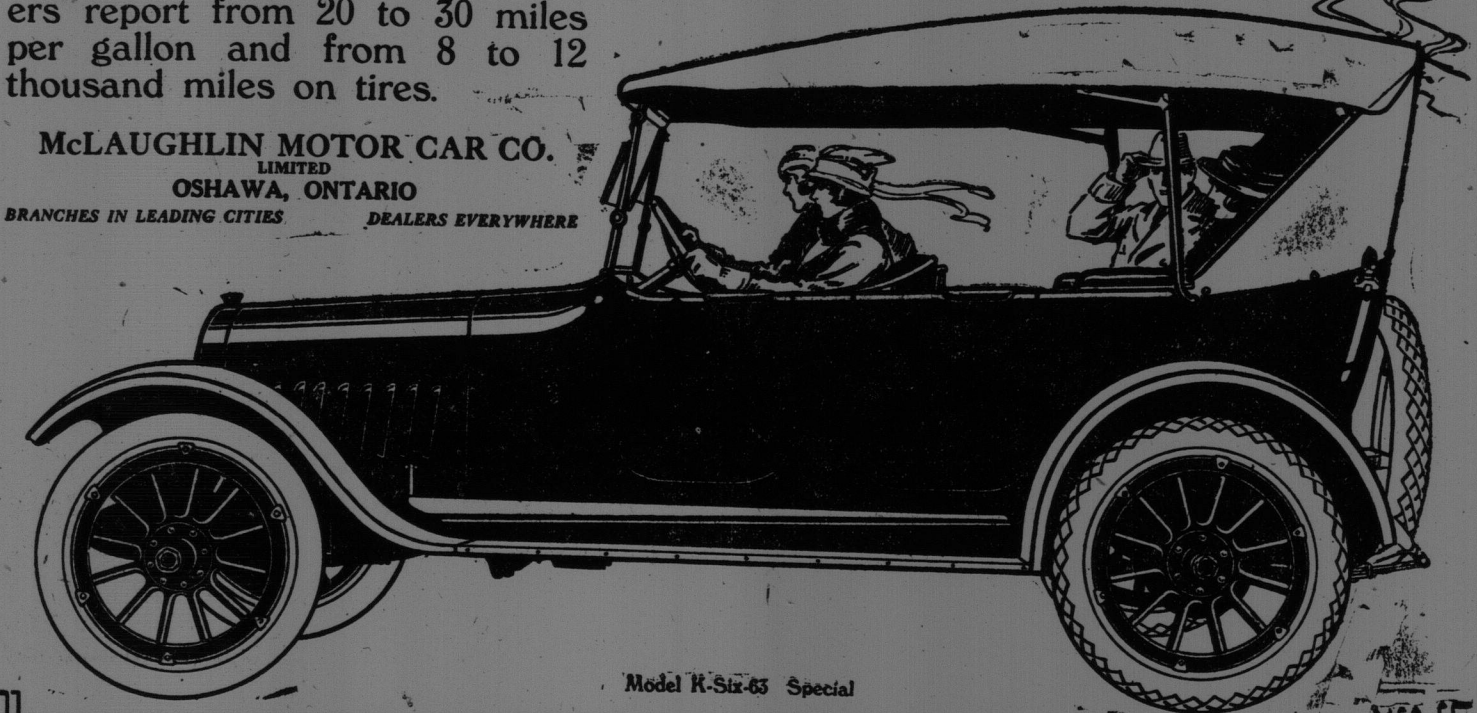
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has received £100,000, but is understood to purchase by popular subscription the Haig family ancestral property in Scotland has apparently fallen through, as a result, opines Mr. Scudamore, of the apathy of the London newspapers. However, any time the field marshal has pressing need for a million or so he is only to conquer his scruples about immediate publication of his book.

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