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### The Colonial Troops Raid Foe's Lines in Man's Land

German Officers Tell Their Men That the New Zealanders Are Cannibals and Eat Them Alive—The Tide of Battle Turned in the Allies Favor.

War Correspondents Headquarters, July 30—Our men have been making a number of small raids into the German trenches. Discovering the enemy's strength and dispositions and doing as much damage as possible in the short time. English, Australian, Canadian and New Zealand troops have all been taking a share in these grim adventures and nearly every raiding party brought back a few prisoners. In these hours of darkness, when our men crawl out into No Man's Land, dropping into the wet mud of shell craters, lying doggo when the whistle of German rockets makes every strand of barbed wire a black etching against the incandescent light, so that a crouching man feels monstrously visible among the dark shadows of slime. There are intense emotions which some men dread and some men like, according to their state of nerves and mental reactions.

"Nobody writes about that side of the war," said a Canadian officer one day, "though it has been written now and then, nobody describes what it feels like when one charges one's body through mud with a German machine gun a few yards away, and a German sentry pacing up and down a bit of the trench and stopping to listen to some bricks that one sends clattering down by a careless movement, and a dead body, a long time dead outside the German wire, which one grabs in the darkness here or there and pounces forward. That is war, but not the one reads."

Canadian Officer's Experience  
This Canadian officer had a queer experience a little while ago, and during the last few days others had the same. He went with a raiding party into the German outpost lines and stayed there for two hours in the German trenches without seeing a living soul.

In some parts of the line, especially in those parts where No Man's Land is wide, the enemy holds the forward system very thickly with snipers, and there and the trenches behind it, so it happens sometimes, though rarely, of course, that, as the other night, our raiding parties find themselves some within German lines between one post and another.

The Germans are doped with opiates of the way in which British trench parties have been able to capture German soldiers of normal intelligence.

should believe these fantastic allegations. A day or two New Zealanders who brought back some prisoners from a raid were amazed at the terror of the Germans, which only disappeared when they had been well fed and treated in a decent and humane way which is the invariable fortune of all our prisoners. As soon as their fright was over they confessed they were told by their officers that the New Zealanders were cannibals who would first offer them cigarettes, and then eat them. They were offered cigarettes according to this prophecy, and to a man refused them with signs of great uneasiness. Those red cheeked New Zealand boys will hugely enjoy the joke of this reputation, but it leaves one staggered with the credulity of the German soldiers as well.

The Tide Has Turned.  
All those little things help break the monotony of trench life and form gossip of dugouts, have no more important than individual experiences in a war where only massed battles count. Towards the end they are counting down south on the ground between the Aisne and the Marne, where the armies of the Crown Prince are in slow but steady retreat, revealing to their own people the greatness of the disaster that has overtaken them, and it will need a lot of explaining in Germany, for not all the lies of their general staff can save the turning of that tide. On the British front our men stand waiting and watching for the next move of Prince Rupprecht's armies, which are ready for an attack, but bewildering in their purpose by the scheme of things. It may be they will never carry out the attack that is planned, but from now until the end of the war will fight on a defensive in great rearguard actions which Germany will fight when the initiative is ours, and until there is peace.

The rain storm that flooded all the low lying ground ought to delay any offensive action of Rupprecht's reserves, whatever may be intended by Ludendorff, and in another month or two, with the Americans still pouring into France, the initiative will be ours in a definite and undoubted way, and Germany will face the onsets and it is extremely doubtful success, has now crept close to her.

### Minister of Labor Has Clear Grasp of Situation

A Port of Shelter for the Craft of Both Workers and Employers.  
Where They May Anchor and Ride in Peace and Amity  
—He Believes in the "Square Deal."

Ottawa, July 30—Hot weather on the top of hysterical conditions arising from the war may be the genesis of widespread restlessness among the workers of Canada, showing itself not so much in exorbitant demands for increased wages as insistence upon shorter hours and the recognition of unionism. Whatever the cause of labor's unrest at the moment, the Minister of Labor, Hon. T. W. Crothers, K. C., is the centre on which impinge the conflicting and often contradictory statements of the workers and the employers. He is the storm-centre though by no means the storm-maker. Because he is Minister of Labor he needs must hear both sides of the case, and without being a party to either, adjust the difference and keep the wheels of industry turning in the larger interest of maintaining Canada's peaceful prosecution of the war.

Like the third party intervenor in a domestic squabble, the lot of the Minister of Labor can never be said to be a happy one, for no matter how a labor trouble is settled, it is bound to be impossible to satisfy everyone, and no one ever sends a bouquet of roses to a Minister of Labor. No one loves the man who stops a fight.

Yet, after seven years of the administration of the department of labor, Mr. Crothers, thanks in a great measure to his keen Irish sense of humor, and without being a party to either, adjust the difference and keep the wheels of industry turning in the larger interest of maintaining Canada's peaceful prosecution of the war.

Speaking to the writer of how the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act works out, Mr. Crothers said, "It provides a means for the adjustment of differences arising between employers and workmen by a board of conciliation, one member of which is chosen by the men, one by the employer and the third, selected by them jointly, in the event of their being unable to agree, chosen by the Minister of Labor. The men selected by the par-

ties, as is common in arbitrations, generally become advocates respectively of the parties naming them, and the decision is really given by the chairman so selected. It, therefore, is important to select a high type of man who is absolutely fair, and I have always for that purpose selected a judge if one was at all available.

It has occasionally happened that where the appointment came to me I have been requested indirectly by one side or the other to appoint as chairman a man favorable to the person applying to me.

To illustrate, the solicitor of a large company on one occasion came and asked me to appoint a certain man favorable to the company, which I indignantly refused to do. Then a member of the House of Commons, an supporter of the Government of the day, came to me and repeated the request. I told him that such action on my part would be obviously unfair and would make me unworthy the position I held. I said, "The company has already named a man on the board, and your proposition is that they shall select a second." He became angry and said it was the first time he had ever asked a favor of the labor department, and that it would be the last time. I learned the decorum of public office many years ago from an old-fashioned high court judge of Ontario who, on one occasion, went to London to hold the assizes and before reaching the court house met his brother, with whom I was speaking. After the usual cordial greetings, the judge said to his brother, "What are you doing here?" On being told that he was a witness at the court house, the judge asked, "Is it a case I am to try?" His brother replied, "Yes." The judge then remarked, "You need not remain any longer for I will not try a case in which you are to be a witness."

It is charged against the Hon. Mr. Crothers, that he is sympathetic with the wage-carriers. He does not deny the charge but rather gladly hears it, for his long public career bears testimony to the fact that he has stood for justice against aggression and for the weaker against the stronger. He believes in a "square deal" for the wage-earners of Canada and has not hesitated to array the whole force of the Government of Canada against powerful corporations in order that fair treatment might be extended to those who labor with their hands. Letters come to the department almost daily from working men, expressive of their appreciation of the promptness with which their interests are looked after by the minister, who thoughtful business men commend him for his judicial statement of what Canada expects from labor during the war.

### EXEMPTION CASE IN PORTO RICO

San Juan, Porto Rico, July 30—A court case to decide whether the ruling of the Department of State that land-born sons of Spanish born parents are included in the operation of the selective draft is valid, is pending in the Federal court.

F. H. Dexter, an attorney acting for Jose Lopez Garcia, has asked that a writ of habeas corpus be issued against an American military officer directing him to produce the plaintiff before the court.

The plaintiff's ground for asking for exemption from military service is that he, as the son of a Spaniard, is a Spanish citizen and that his citizenship is recognized by international law and the constitutional and statutory law of the United States.

are wrong he does not refrain from telling them so. His frankness is proverbial. Recently, without previous notice, the president of a labor organization wired him that his organization would go out on strike the next day. The minister was astonished and replied, asking, "Why he delayed till the next day; why not strike that day?" This reply was effective in bringing the labor leader to earth and reason.

Lion Mr. Crothers is old-fashioned in some of his ideas, and thank Heaven Canada still has gentlemen of the old school in public life. He is an enemy of nepotism. He has never recommended a relative for a position in the public service, nor has one been appointed through him.

Nor has he recommended a place of importance in the public service anyone applying for it, because he believes that such an application is primarily an indication of inability to achieve success in the open field of competition. These were the principles that guided him in making appointments before the civil service commission came into being; they are still his firm beliefs.

In Ontario he is gratefully known as "the man who smashed the school book ring and greatly reduced the cost of public and high school text books. In 1902, as chairman of the provincial commission to inquire into the cost of school text books, he performed a lasting public service. He set an exceptional example of disinterestedness by returning the cheque for \$2,000 which the Government sent him as an honorarium for his services as chairman, with the statement that his actual disbursements had been \$192, and he would accept nothing for his public work.

He first aspired to represent West Elgin in the Ontario legislature in 1879, but was defeated by seven votes, though the normal Liberal majority in that riding was 200. He entered the House of Commons for West Elgin in 1908, with a majority of 518. In 1911 he was returned with a majority of 879, and in 1917 by 1,647, seeming to indicate a progressive popularity among those who know him best and with whom he makes his home.

His recent report to the Government-General on labor conditions in Canada demonstrates the fact that he has a thorough grasp of the situation and a clear and comprehensive idea of the principles by which Canada must be governed if industrial peace is to be maintained. The Minister of Labor is a port of shelter for the craft of both workers and employers, where happily they may anchor and ride in peace and amity.

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