

FRANCE AND FLANDERS

we were given two days' leave in Brussels, and it is certainly "war" city. Mons was a very busy place, and seemed to be the centre for shopping purposes of a vast number of smaller places. I expected Mons to show some of the signs of war which so plainly marked the hundreds of other places I had seen, but from appearances, there might not have been a war within a thousand miles of the town.

Brussels was the city par excellence, however. We got there two days after King Albert and Queen Elizabeth had ridden in at the head of their troops. The whole city was decked out in honour of the royal couple. Statues and monuments were draped in black, and the streets were lined with flags. The Imperial Theatre, shown in the picture opposite, was the rallying point of many patriotic demonstrations during the war. This theatre was used largely for recruiting meetings and in the interest of many causes. Through the kindness of Mr. Walter H. Golding, manager of the theatre, this building was always available for such gatherings and it was most fitting that His Royal Highness should pause in front of the Imperial Theatre to receive the greeting of the orphan children stationed at this point. Mr. Golding was also personally responsible for much of the success of the dual celebration in St. John in August, 1919, having charge of the publicity and assisting generally with all preparations made.

I had but one thought now, to get back home with all speed, and as I had been away from home three years and a half and was over age, I felt quite justified in asking for leave to Canada in place of my usual pass to England, so I put in an application which was granted. My two boys were in England expecting to be sent home, the youngest one had been there since his wound at