

Canada Has Record Number of Battalions Made Up of Soldiers of Foreign Blood

By Francis J. Dickie

As a result of the great war, the Dominion of Canada has established a unique record in the way of units of her army being made up of men foreign to the country. There are no less than seven of these. Probably the most unique is the battalion of Germans fighting at the front for Canada. They came from the Province of Ontario where, for over a century, there has been German settlements made up mostly of men who ran away from the Fatherland to escape military service. That Canada was a good mother was quickly proven when the war broke out. The new race of German Canadians had nothing of the hyphenate about them. A battalion of them soon went overseas. Photo No. 1 shows a group of these on the right being inspected by the ex-Minister of Militia.

The battalions of Canadian Red Men, of which over three thousand have joined the Canadian army, has already been told of in *The Western Home Monthly* by word and picture. Recently one of these soldiers won the highest military award, the Victoria Cross, for valor at the front.

Next in point of bizarreness in this hodge podge of many nations is the Afro-Canadian units, made up of negroes Canadian born. A little better than fifty years ago the Dominion of Canada was the welcoming haven to which escaping negro slaves made their way. At the time the Province of Ontario received practically all these fleeing bondsmen, the province being the nearest and most settled part of Canada to the United States. The early settlers of Ontario, sturdy hard working Scots for the most part, were fiercely anti-slavery, a fact which they evinced by sending several regiments of men to the States to fight on the side of the North in the civil war.

So the arriving slaves found a warm welcome, food, clothing and employment in the various settlements and farming communities, particularly in those points nearest to the border. The colored line played no part in Canadian politics or feelings. So the slaves became good citizens. Hundreds of them, both men and women, found their way to Canada before the civil war, and very few of these ever returned to the United States. As a result of this influx of colored people there grew up in the succeeding years a race of Afro-Canadians, as they prefer to be called to-day. Blessed with equal rights, the new generation availed themselves of the thorough education the Canadian schools afforded and to-day in Canada are colored doctors, lawyers, preachers and many other professional men. When the war broke out many colored Canadians enlisted; recently, however, the government, seeing how loyal its colored members were, began recruiting them in battalions made up entirely of men of the Afro-Canadian race with the exception of a few white officers. All the non-commissioned officers, the doctors and chaplain who accompany it are men of the colored race. No doubt in a short time, for the unit will likely go overseas soon, word will be received back that these sons of the land of the Maple Leaf have acquitted themselves

equally well with the red men and many other nations that make up Canada's cosmopolitan army.

No. 2 shows a company of Red Men in an Eastern battalion.

Just which side of the war the people of Greece proper favor is pretty hard for the laymen upon this continent to decide, judging from the press reports of occurrences taking place in that land. But Greeks in Canada have shown most decidedly how they feel by enlisting in the Canadian army in large numbers. Canada has a particularly large population

The extremely unique point is, the Greek regiment has been attached to a Scotch-kilted battalion, making the first Canadian-Greek-Scotch-kilties.

Photo number 4 emphasizes how truly cosmopolitan is the Canadian army. In Canada, particularly in the Western part in the Province of Manitoba, was a very large settlement of Norwegians and Icelanders. Many of these people had been here over a quarter of a century, and had raised families. That their adopted country was loved by these hardy northern people was quickly evidenced by the raising of a battalion of Northmen. Perhaps it is only natural that these people should join in a Canadian war, for tracing back to original stock the same blood flowed in Icelandic and Norwegian veins as in many Canadians. The battalion so made up has given a

cently, however, a battalion was raised known as "The American Legion," which is now some 700 strong. Owing to reasons of neutrality the name was recently changed. The young man in the upper row of the picture with the ribbon in his lapel is one of the members of that battalion.

Altogether there are seven distinct corps in the Canadian army made up of men of foreign blood: German, Indian, Greek, Norwegian, Icelandic, Negro and American.

By an order of the various allied nations, those emigrants from France, Belgium, Russia, Serbia and Italy are also to be found in considerable numbers sprinkled through many Canadian battalions, but as they are not distinctive in the way of being raised as separate units, these nations have not been numbered.

Yet again, there are about 100,000 men in the Canadian army that are of English, Scotch, Irish or Welsh descent. In connection with the Irish and Scotch, a number of battalions to the number of a little over a dozen have been raised. In case of the Irish battalions there is little to distinguish them from the regular ones; but the Scotch, always clannish, have clung to their dearly beloved kilts, and Canadian kilted battalions are, so to speak, quite the fashion. In this photo No. 4 are shown in order of reading, upper row first: an Afro-Canadian, a Canadian-Scotch kiltie, an Irishman, a Norwegian, an American, a Canadian, an Englishman, a Welshman, a Scotch kiltie, a Canadian, and an Afro-Canadian.

New Regulations as to Admitting Canadian Potatoes to United States

Manitoba has this fall shipped a great many carloads of potatoes into the United States. The fact, therefore, that new regulations have just been made at Washington respecting the admission of Canadian tubers is of interest to all farmers. The advice respecting these changes which comes from Ottawa to the Manitoba Department of Agriculture is as follows:

"Hereafter permits will be issued to United States importers by the Federal Horticultural Board at Washington for the admission of Canadian potatoes at any port of entry instead of at certain designated ports as at present and without inspection at the port of entry, except when such inspection is specifically required by the Board, but each shipment must be accompanied by two copies of a certificate of soundness signed by the shipper certifying that the potatoes are as sound as is commercially practicable and that the shipment contains not more than ten per cent of potatoes showing traces of scab, dry rot, wilt, or other potato disease taken altogether.

"Canadian shippers in obtaining from the United States consignment the number of his permit should ask to be supplied with enough copies of the certificate of soundness to cover the individual shipments to be made.

"Shippers are warned that the offering for entry to the United States of potatoes not up to the standard of the certificate of soundness may lead not only to the rejection of their particular shipments, but also to the cancellation of existing permits and the refusal of new permits as to such shippers."



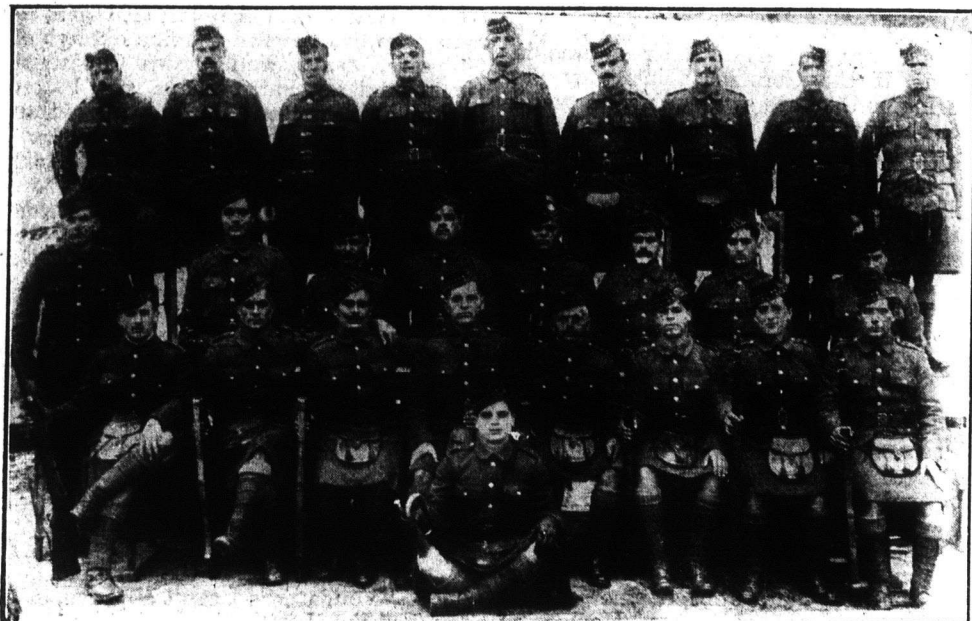
Lieutenant-General Sir Sam Hughes, Ex-Minister of Militia, inspecting a group of men made up of German-Canadian parentage.



Eastern Red Men in Canadian Army

of Greeks, many of whom have been here a quarter of a century and reared families. Early in the war, even, hundreds of Greeks enlisted in various units. Recently, however, seeing the eagerness of these people to serve had not cooled, the government authorized the raising of a regiment, a group from which is seen here. Photo number 3 evidences that they are good looking warriors.

good account of itself at the front and already many such foreign names from the land of the midnight sun have appeared in Canadian papers, such as Helgason, Anderson, Sigurdson, Ericson, etc. Also, and equally naturally, many thousand men from the United States are fighting in the Canadian army. The enlistment of such men was at first scattered through many battalions. Re-



Greeks—A Company of Greeks in a Canadian Highland Regiment.



An assorted group of Canadian Soldiers.