

BITTER COMPLAINT REGARDING MEALS

Sitting at Dirty Tables, Northland Soldiers Are Handed Christmas Pudding.

VETERANS TESTIFY

Evidence of Stewards Selling Food to Men Contrary to Regulations.

Ottawa, Jan. 3. — Practically the whole of today's sitting of the Northland inquiry was devoted to the soldiers' version. Generally speaking, there was not the strength of complaint in regard to the quality of the food served as in regard to its insufficiency and the method in which it was served. Bunking accommodation, it was claimed, was inadequate.

"The bathing accommodation was bad," declared Corporal Higgins of Stratford. "The stewards had to dress or undress and the floor was covered sometimes with an inch of water."

Just before adjournment in the afternoon, there was evidence of stewards selling food to the men, contrary to regulations. The stewards had their price list, according to Pte. W. A. Head, another Toronto soldier. It would be a couple of shillings for steak and chips, bread and butter and tea; or for four shillings one might have chicken. Head had not seen the price list, but knew what it was, and during the trip he paid probably two shillings a day to the stewards for food.

"And was there a good, rushing business done in that way?" curiously asked the commissioner, Judge Hodgins.

"Oh, yes, at certain times," he replied simply. He knew it was unfair, but he did not mind. He knew it could not last for long and he wanted to get home.

Was Philosophic. "You were philosophic enough to look at it in that light," was the commissioner's comment.

Head cited the following as an instance of supper: One-half tablespoonful of salmon. Six pickles. Tablespoonful of thin jam. Slice of bread.

About half a pint of tea or coffee. There were also charges made that fresh water was not available for washing or shaving.

Sapper Ailette, of Toronto, while making no general complaint as to the quality of the food, described his Christmas dinner in this wise: One fat pork chop with one and a half inches fat. Christmas pudding served by hand instead of dishes—passably good.

This was when the Northland lay quarantined in Halifax harbor. The men, he said, had been told to take down their mattresses which were piled around. They had to eat the dinner the best way they could. The mattresses gave out a nasty odor, and Ailette said, "It is very unpleasant for a man to have to sit down to a Christmas dinner under such conditions."

Bunks Like Coffins. He complained, too, that there was not enough food, that 24 men bunked in the same room. Half the bunks were wooden, looked like coffins, and when a man got in them he seemed to be almost buried. Ailette had a top bunk and found difficulty in getting into it owing to a wounded shoulder. It was brought out earlier in the sitting that the Northland is under time charter to the British Government. The White Star Dominion Line, owners of the vessel, act as agents for the British Government, but engage the officers and staff of the boat.

Pte. Jos. Hawkes, Machine Gun Corps, said that he had been told by a member of the crew of the Northland that the deck on which he bunked was used for storing cargo and the stowage of the sleeping quarters was bad, the food insufficient and the meat served of a very inferior quality and badly prepared.

Water Scarce. Complaint of a great scarcity of drinking water was made by Pte. Fred Leith, of Toronto, who said that for the last three days of the voyage he had been unable to get a drink of water. The fresh water taps on the deck of the vessel were frozen.

Lieut. Commander Williams, R.N.C. V.R., naval service department in appearance as representing the admiralty, Lieut. Vantelet, C.F.A., Montreal, was in charge of a party of men on the Northland. It was laid down in the regulations, he said, that ten were required to supply fatigues, food and wash dishes. The stewards were supposed to do what they could and the men to help them.

Judge Hodgins: "Who was responsible for dishes not being removed from the tables?"

"The men were responsible and the stewards were to help them to the limit of their capacity."

Lieut. Vantelet said he had received complaints from men on the Northland that the food was insufficient in quantity. When the men got full rations it was about equal in quantity to rations served in training camps in England.

Do you mean that full rations were not served?" Mrs. Ordie asked.

"The stewards would serve the food out of large pans. If too much were dished out at the beginning there

was not enough for the men at the end."

Coming to Christmas Day, the men grumbled at not being allowed to land. Had the men landed, a Christmas dinner was waiting for them on shore. The witness did not consider that the Christmas dinner was a good one for Christmas dinner.

Mr. Ordie: "What sort of dinner was served to the officers?"

"It was a very good dinner."

"The officers also," he said, "were disappointed at not being able to go ashore on Christmas Day."

Questioned as to dock accommodation for the men, the witness said that on the third day out the side reserved to officers and civilians was changed. There was no change after that. When final arrangements were made, had all decks except two-thirds of the promenade deck.

Replying to the commissioner, Mr. Vantelet said it was the duty of the orderly officer of the day to see that the men got full rations.

The men claimed that the water in the taps was salt. Lieut. Vantelet tasted it, and it seemed salt. "I reported to the commanding officer," he said, "and he said it was condensed water, and the best they had." The water in the first-class saloon seemed fresher. He could not say whether it was condensed.

Bedding on Table. Pte. Lewis Davis testified that there was not enough food on the Northland after the third day out. Meals were particularly lacking. He had no complaint to make regarding the quality of the food. He bought food at the canteens, but none from the stewards.

Christmas dinner, he said, was a very uncomfortable meal, owing to bedding, etc., being strewn around the cabin.

The drinking water, he said, was partly salt. In answer to the commissioner, he stated that he had seen food sold by one of the ship's staff, whom he thought was an assistant steward.

Little to Eat. Pte. W. A. Head, Toronto, formerly of the 20th Battalion, denied that he had ever said to a reporter that there was nothing fit to eat on board. But he thought the men got very little to eat and what they did get was not very fit.

On Christmas night, after the orderly officer and chief steward had been around, the men got about three men's worth of food. The food was not much as they had usually been getting. Everyone was satisfied. As to the dinner, some fellows, Pte. Head said, could eat it all right. He could not eat turnips uncooked.

The enquiry was adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

KINGSTON EXPANDS. Kingston, Jan. 3.—Building permits issued during 1918 amounted to \$218,943 as compared with \$159,706 in 1917.

ALARMING EPIDEMIC OF HAIR TROUBLES

1,000,000 HAIR HEALTH PARCELS FREE

Remarkable interest has been aroused by the ever-increasing number of cases of hair troubles reported from all parts, and more especially in the great munition-making centres. Thousands of men and women are finding Hair Poverty, Tremulous Baldness and Loss of Color troubling them today as never before.

HOW THE HAIR IS BEING POISONED

Mr. Edwards, the Discoverer-Inventor of "Harlequin" and "Harlequin Hair-Drill," when his opinion was sought, had much of interest to impart.

"There is certainly a great increase lately in all kinds of hair troubles," he said. "This is chiefly due to the fact that many people do not realize how simple a task it is to make the hair wonderfully bright and healthy—in the great munition centres I have heard of extraordinary cases of hair troubles, but there are hundreds of thousands more also who are suffering from hair weakness which could so speedily be remedied if they would only accept the Free Gift I am prepared to make."

Thin, Weak, Discolored, Brittle, Greasy, Itchy, even the semblance of youth. Those, therefore, who are among the many thousands just now whose hair is deteriorating.

This is your hair-health gift: 1. A bottle of "Harlequin," the true liquid food and natural tonic for the hair, which cleanses "Greasy" Shampoo Powder, which prepares the head for "Hair-Drill."

At this time, when men and women are all concentrated on war-work, never has the great "Hair-Drill" exercise proved so universally triumphant. If you are in the least worried as to your hair, send for this special gift offered you here free.

2. A packet of the marvelous hair and scalp cleansing "Greasy" Shampoo Powder, which cleanses the head for "Hair-Drill."

3. A copy of the new edition of the secret "Harlequin" Manual.

After a Free Trial you will be able to obtain supplies of "Harlequin" and "Greasy" Shampoo Powder from any of the following:

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SOCIETY

Conducted by Mrs. Edmund Phillips.

His Excellency the Governor-General of Canada, will be present at the sixteenth annual concert of the National Chorus in Massey Hall on the 23rd instant. His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, Lady Hendrie, and Miss Hendrie, will also be of the vice-regal party.

The president and council of the Art Museum of Toronto have issued invitations to the private view of a loan exhibition of paintings by old and modern masters from the National Gallery of Canada, Ottawa, on Tuesday evening, Jan. 7, at 8.30 o'clock.

General Sir Sam Hughes arrived at the King Edward yesterday.

The Toronto Skating Club will meet at the Arena on the next three Saturdays, from 4 to 6.30 o'clock, when there will be tea and music. On Thursday night the members are preparing figures for the carnival which will take place the last week of February or the first in March.

Mrs. Vincent Greene and her daughter are expected out from England shortly.

Mrs. Gwyn Francis is giving a party next week for Miss Jessa Francis.

Mrs. Henry Brook is giving a party and tea for her young people today.

Mrs. Harper, Russell Hill road, gave a children's party from 5 to 9 o'clock last night.

The Jewish Benevolent Society hall will take place in Columbus Hall on the 15th inst. for the first time since the war.

Mrs. George Biggar, Charles street, gave a young people's dance last night. The Rosary Hall Sewing Circle met at Hennessey's tea room yesterday afternoon for tea and a talk over the season's work. Those present were Miss Marie Macdonell, Mrs. H. Reid, Mrs. Crofton-Kelly, Miss Kate Fraser, Mrs. H. C. Bunder, Mrs. W. H. Lea, Mrs. P. J. Johnston, Miss Kate Mill or Miss M. Law, Mrs. M. Oumet, Miss Gallagher, Mrs. J. P. Edgar.

Mrs. R. A. Richardson gave a very enjoyable dance for her sons last night at her house in Walmer road, when she received in a rose taffeta gown. They danced in all the rooms on the ground floor, and many comfortable chairs were arranged upstairs for sitting out. A buffet supper was served from a table decorated with roses. About 90 of the boys' friends were present. The arrangements were all very perfect. It being one of the nicest dances of the week.

Mrs. Follingsby gave a very nice dance last night for her young niece, Miss Kathleen Skeay, when the hostess wore a very becoming gown of black embroidered with silver sequins. Her niece looked very pretty in blue and gold flowered silk with white tulle; her mother, Mrs. Skeay, was in black and gold, and Mrs. Driffield's gown was of black blonde de grenade embroidered with sequins. The Christmas decorations made the spacious rooms very nice looking. A buffet supper was served from a table decorated with roses. About 90 of the boys' friends were present. The arrangements were all very perfect. It being one of the nicest dances of the week.

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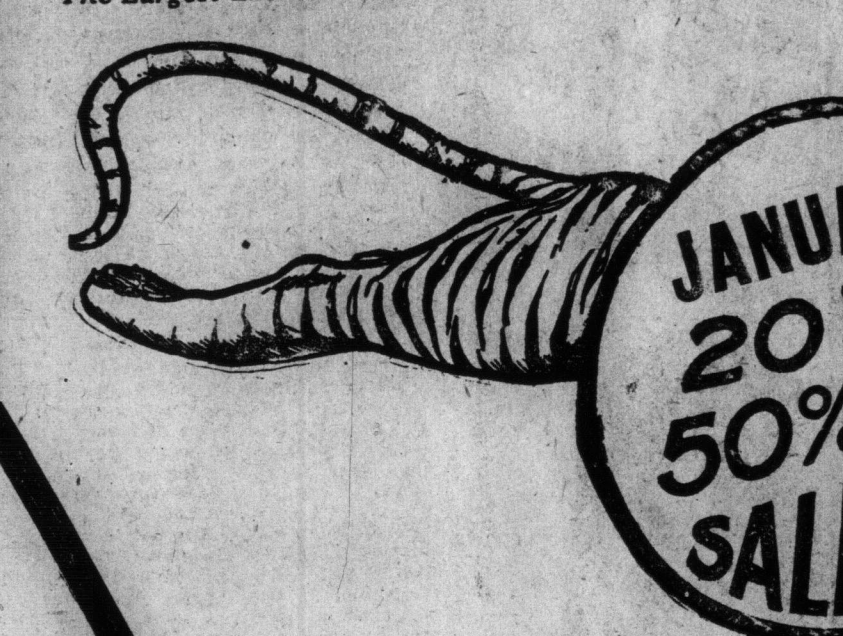
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Made from fine quality, glossy, even curl Persian Lamb skins, full box style, with large cape and shawl collar and cuffs, some have pockets, finished with silk crocheted buttons, fancy Brocade and Pussy Willow Silk linings, 42 and 45 inches long. Regular \$500.00, \$500.00 and \$600.00. SATURDAY.....\$399.00

Model Hudson Seal Coats, Trimmed

This season's best models, made from finest quality Russian Seal skins, semi-fitting, close-fitting and full box styles. Many have belts and pockets, large cape and shawl collars, deep cuffs of Alaska Sable, Kolinsky, Natural Beaver, Natural Lynx, Black Lynx, Canadian Raccoon drop skins, Taupes Squirrel and Mink; rich Pussy Willow Silk linings. Regular \$350.00, \$400.00, \$450.00 to \$500.00. SATURDAY.....\$299.00

Exquisite Hudson Seal Coats, Trimmed and Plain

The trimmed coats have large cape collars and deep cuffs, of fine quality Alaska Sable. The plain coats have extra large cape collars and cuffs of self. Styles are full box and semi-fitting; some have half belts and pockets. The Hudson Seal is of good quality, and well made, and lined with Brocade Poplin and Pussy Willow Silk, 42 and 45 inches long. Regular \$250.00, \$275.00, up to \$325.00. SATURDAY.....\$199.00

Sumptuous Coney Seal, Nutria, Beaver, and Muskrat Coats, Plain and Trimmed

THE CONEY SEAL COATS are made from selected skins, and have large cape collars, deep cuffs of Natural Australian Opossum, well made and Silk Poplin lined, 45 inches long.

THE NUTRIA BEAVER COATS are full box styles, with large cape collars, deep cuffs of Hudson Seal, some have half belts and pockets, Silk Brocade linings, 40 and 42 inches long.

THE MUSKRAT COATS are made from finest quality well-furred skins, with large cape collar, deep cuffs of Hudson Seal, full fur styles, some have pockets and half belts, 40 and 42 inches and 45 inches long. The plain coats are made from best quality full-furred skins, large shawl collars, deep cuffs, extra well lined with Silk Poplin, 45 and 50 inches long. Regular \$175.00, \$200.00, \$225.00, \$250.00 to \$285.00. SATURDAY.....\$129.00

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Are you unhappy, unit for your duties? Write and tell me how you feel and I will send you ten days' FREE trial of a home treatment to meet your individual needs, without the expense of hospital treatment or the dangers of any operation. Women everywhere, who have passed through their troubles and regained health, or you can secure this FREE treatment for your daughter, sister or mother.

If you suffer from pain in the head, back, or bowels, feeling of weight and dragging down sensations, falling or displacement of internal organs, bladder irritation with frequent urination, obstinate constipation or