

LT.-COL. J. L. RALSTON MAKES A STATEMENT

The Well Known Officer Commanding 85th Battalion Answers an Inquiry Regarding the "Y."

Rixensart, Belgium, March 28th, 1919.
C. J. Burchell, Esq., R. C. S.
Halifax, N. S.

My dear Burchell:
I have your letter of February 11th. My experience with the Y. M. C. A. over here has been consistently gratifying. It would take too long to go into particulars of all their activities, but we met them at Bouvigny first immediately after our arrival in France, and from that time the occasions have been very rare and the circumstances very exceptional when they have been out of touch with us. At Vimy Ridge they served not tea and biscuits in what was little more than a shell hole, about 500 yards behind the front line, and ever since that they have always had a canteen just as near as it was practical to get to us. On relief nights, canteens out of the line, we generally could depend on there being a Y. M. C. A. with a boiler of tea and its stock of biscuits, ready to serve our men free of charge. Their regular canteens, when we have been in the reserve or resting, have been well stocked, and when you come to consider the difficulty which they must have had in getting shipping and land transports, in view of the constant demand that is made on ships, railways, and forries for transportation of troops, ammunition and supplies, one's appreciation of their efforts is naturally increased. We could always go to the Y. M. C. A. and get our portion of sporting gear without any charge whatever, and no questions were asked when we went back next day and asked for some more to replace any stuff which was damaged. They have run cinemas every practical place, and their concert party has played to us. On two occasions at least, we have had orders for quick moves and have had considerable stock in our own canteen which it was impossible to dispose of and would have meant a total loss to us. I have gone to the Y. M. C. A. Headquarters with my stock list, and asked them to take it over. They have cheerfully consented, and a cheque has been sent us just as soon as the stock was checked over, no discount of any kind being requested.

My idea is that an institution is just the same size as the men who are running it, and the Y. M. C. A. as far as our experience goes, has been blessed with live, progressive officers whose main object in life has been to help.

At the present moment this Battalion alone has the following sporting gear from the Y. M. C. A.: 11 baseball gloves, 7 baseballs, 19 sets boxing gloves, 14 indoor baseballs, 11 indoor footballs, 11 Rugby footballs, 11 Association footballs, 50 pairs running shoes, 17 running trunks, 40 sweaters, 12 pairs football boots, 2 tug-of-war ropes, 5 baseball bats, 2 baseball masks, and 4 chest protectors. They have a concert party of 300 yards of our Battalion Headquarters, they run a cinema show every night, and in fact, any afternoon we want it. They have already brought two good concert parties for us; they have a reading and recreation room here. In Brussels they provide sleeping accommodation and luncheon for a large number of men daily who go on leave, and provide sight-seeing parties. Today there is a big boxing tournament in Brussels and the Y. M. C. A. are feeding about 2,000 men.

Naturally, all this activity can't be run without there being some hitches; for instance, heard one complain that some of the men in the canteens were not as obliging as they might be. That occurs in any business, no matter how well run, and it only has to be mentioned to those in charge to have it remedied. Another chap claimed he had got short change, which is just another similar instance. In reference to the religious side of it: the Y. M. C. A. looks after the social end of the work, and the Chaplains after the religious end. And I don't think I ever heard the slightest criticism that the Y. M. C. A. were devoting too much attention to religion, and neglecting the physical and social side of their work. The Religion they manifested here has been a good deal more works than sermons.

I don't want you to think that I think any man or institution is perfect. I have come across one or two exceptions in the case of the Y. M. C. A. Officers who, I did not think were quite up to the standard for activity and enthusiasm and energy in connection with their work, but they have been quite the exception.

Yours sincerely,
Lt.-Col. J. L. RALSTON.

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SCIENCE REVEALS ANOTHER SECRET OF THE WAR

Discovery That a Tree is a Potential Wireless Tower Revealed by Gen'l Squires of U. S. Army.

Washington, April 25.—Discovery that a tree is a potential wireless tower was announced today by Major General Squires, chief signal officer of the army, revealing another war secret and telling the story of how, while hostilities were on shore and afloat, the Americans, with a string of stations using tree tops as antennae, received messages from ships at sea and the principal European stations.

General Squires made his disclosure in a paper read before the Physical Society of America, meeting here at the United States Bureau of Standards. Afterwards he took the scientists into the woods near the bureau and demonstrated a portable field laboratory erected there for experiments in development of the new discovery. He showed how nature's wireless tower was nothing more than a tall tree, preferably a eucalyptus, with a small wire netting spread below and an insulated wire hanging from a spike driven near the top.

PUT STOMACH IN FINE CONDITION

Says Indigestion Results from an Excess of Hydrochloric Acid.

Undigested food delayed in the stomach decays, or rather, ferments the same as food left in the open air, says a noted authority. He also tells us that indigestion is caused by Hyperacidity, meaning, there is an excess of hydrochloric acid in the stomach which prevents complete digestion and starts food fermentation. Thus every thing eaten sours in the stomach much like garbage sours in a can, forming acid fluids and gases which irritate the stomach like a toy balloon. Then we feel a heavy, lumpy misery in the chest, we belch up gas, we eructate sour food or have heartburn, flatulence, water-brash or nausea.

He tells us to lay aside all digestive aids and instead, get in any pharmacy four ounces of J. J. Salts and take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast and drink while it is effervescent and furthermore, to continue this for a week. While relief follows the first dose, it is important to neutralize the acidity, remove the gas-making mass, start the liver, stimulate the kidneys and thus promote a free flow of pure digestive juices.

Jad Salts is inexpensive and is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia and sodium phosphate. This harmless salts is used by thousands of people for stomach trouble with excellent results.

GENERAL STRIKE OF 24 HOURS

Everything to be Tied up in Buenos Aires on May 1st—Government Taking Precautions.

Buenos Aires, April 25.—A general strike of twenty-four hours has been declared for May 1st. The movement will embrace the street cars, all trades, and, in fact, every business. The general labor unrest is increasing with the approach of May 1. Several banks were affected by strikes today, several department stores were closed, and the workmen in down town barber shops have threatened to walk out. Heavy police guards have been posted in the banking district, and around the electric light offices and power houses.

FUNERALS.

The funeral of Mrs. Sarah Manning took place at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, from the Stone church, the Rev. G. A. Kubring officiating. Interment in the Fernhill cemetery.

The funeral of Mrs. William Vail, Charlotte street, west, took place Saturday afternoon, Rev. E. A. Westmorland conducting the services and interment was in the Cedar Hill cemetery.

The funeral of Howard E. A. Jones, Guilford street, west, took place Saturday afternoon. The members of Good Hope Lodge, I. O. O. F., attended. Interment in Fernhill cemetery.

WONDERFUL RESULT OF PROVINCIAL ROAD POLICY

Farmers of Charlotte County Are Unable to Get to Each Other's Farms Over the Roads—To Travel by Air-ship.

(St. Croix Courier.)

Is there any such thing? All over this section of Charlotte county there are between fences stretches of land that are supposed to be used by the farmers when they want to get to town, but just now they do not serve any part of that purpose. The other day, when a life-long Liberal in the town said to a life-long Liberal just outside the town "I am coming out to see you Sunday" all of his roving proclivities were taken from him when his friend replied "would be mighty glad to see you, but for Heaven's sake don't try it just now unless you are coming in an airship." It is not much to be wondered at that the correspondents of the Courier in the country districts write of a continued exodus of farmers and their families to the town, and that the Liberal government has cost the province much in self respect as well as in finance, and the hard-headed people of both political parties are asking themselves "is it worth while?"

CAIRO STRIKE DECLARED OFF

Recognition of British Protectorate by Americans Was a Cold Douche to Extremists.

Cairo, Wednesday, April 23.—The strike of government officials, which has been going on for some time, is over and work has been resumed. The publication of the American letter, recognizing the British protectorate, acted like a cold douche to the extremists, who recognize the futility of their aspirations regarding complete independence, now that America has taken the lead in recognizing Great Britain's position in Egypt.



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ARAGUAYA PATIENTS GET WARM WELCOME

Portland People Made Them Feel at Home When Hospital Ship Docked There Friday.

Portland, Me., April 25.—Delayed by fog and arriving in a snow storm, the 774 wounded officers and men of the Canadian army, who reached Portland today on the steamer Araguaya from Liverpool on their way to a dozen Canadian military districts, were cheered by the warmth of the greeting extended by war workers, reception committees and local residents.

Thirty-eight of the patients were mental cases, and sixty had undergone amputations, of which nineteen were double. There were 48 officers and 7 nursing sisters. The officers put it up to the paying public.

GERMANS ON WAY TO VERSAILLES

Berlin, via Copenhagen, Saturday, April 26.—German delegates to the peace conference will travel to Versailles on three special trains, the first leaving Berlin on Sunday and the last on Monday. It is expected that the peace terms will be handed to the German representatives on Tuesday evening.

The Tageblatt says it is assumed in well-informed circles, that the Italian-American incident will not influence negotiations at Versailles.

FRENCH CABINET CONSIDERS WORK OF PEACE CONFERENCE

Marshal Foch Was Present and Gave Ministers Details of the Military Aspect.

Paris, April 24.—The French cabinet and the members of the French peace delegation held a meeting today, and exchanged views regarding the work of the Peace Conference. Marshal Foch gave the cabinet details of the military point of view concerning problems submitted to the conference.

Besides marshal Foch the other members of the conference delegation present were Jules Cambon, Captain Tardieu, Finance Minister Klotz, Foreign Minister Pichon and Premier Clemenceau. President Poincaré presided at the meeting.

BLOW TO RACE TRACK ACTIVITIES

Acting Premier Announces That the Order in Council Prohibiting Race Track Betting Will Not be Repealed.

Ottawa, Ont., April 25.—In the House of Commons this afternoon, Sir Thomas White, acting Prime Minister, announced that it was not the intention of the Government to repeal the order-in-council which prohibits race track betting "for the period of the war and six months thereafter."

The acting premier made the announcement in reply to a question put by Mr. Fripp, member for Ottawa. The effect of the announcement is that the race tracks of Canada will not open for the spring meetings, as many expected. There have been no regular race meets in Canada since the spring of 1917.

Sir Thomas further stated that the government would make an enquiry before the next session of parliament with a view to an amendment of the permanent act respecting regulation of horse racing.

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RUMANIANS PUSH THEIR ADVANCE ON BUDAPEST

Basel, Saturday, April 26, (Havas).—The Rumanians continue their advance on Budapest from the south and Friday morning were on a line from

Versailles-Nemany-Kirakta to south of Gyl. Several small battles, despatches from Budapest say, were fought during the advance. The Rumanians launched an attack on the northern wing Thursday, but the result is not disclosed in the despatches.

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