



FORT NIAGARA, U. S. A.

By EDWARD W. REYNOLDS

FORT NIAGARA, Youngstown, N.Y., is to-day the home of 3,000 splendid men, training as officers, who will lead into the war the first United States citizen army of 500,000 men. They are the embodiment of youth, strength, intelligence and courage. They represent the more-than-ordinary types of manhood. Some say officers are born, not made; if this is so, these men belong to this type. They seem to have been picked from the colleges, the professions and the higher walks of life. The United States does not appear "so decadent" when such bodies of American manhood are gathered together. Easy and alert when under training. Eager to excel and lead their fellows in the military competitions, they assert their right to belong to the "officer class," and will emulate the exploits of the Canadians when they too undergo the ordeal of modern warfare.

Training at Fort Niagara is a steady grind. From 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with but an hour's respite at noon, these men must work to capacity. They must first demonstrate the qualities of endurance. Each man is watched, ticketed and tabbed by his instructor. His daily progress is watched in very much the same manner as a doctor watches and notes the progress of his patients. These men are constantly under observation. Ability to pass examinations does not necessarily mean that they will be selected to join America's citizen army as officers. Off parade they must show gentlemanly qualities. On furlough they are under close observation. Under all conditions must they show that they can conduct themselves as officers are expected to. Personal habits have a big influence upon selection. Selections for commissions in the United States army are made with greater care and exactitude than in most other military organizations. There is no caste system; they will be selected to lead because they have shown that they possess the qualities of leadership, and can gain the confidence of the men whom they will lead.

Colonel S. W. Miller, in whom is vested the responsibility of training and selecting these men, is a hardy, thoroughly efficient product of American military life. He graduated from West Point in 1879, and from that date on, has served his country

in many parts. As a young officer he fought in the West against hostile Indians, and helped bring peace and prosperity by subduing insurrections in Montana. When war was declared between the United States and Spain, he was selected to go to the Philippines, where he served first as a commander of a battalion, then as Commander of Troops—Brigadier, and later Inspector General of Forces. His chief assistants are all men who have served their country on the battle line.

The syllabus of training on the American side of the Niagara River is very different to what took place at the Canadian camp. The men do not spend weeks learning the ceremonials, but get down to hard training from the drop of the hat. To the casual visitor from Canadian camps there may appear to be a lack of discipline; that an easy familiarity exists between the officers and men that does not induce good discipline, but this is not so. The men are subjected to a different form of military discipline, more is left to their individual initiative. They must either make good or go. One man competes with the other, and this friendly rivalry brings out the best that is in them. The American soldier or cadet may not handle his rifle with the soldierly despatch that characterizes the work of a British-trained fighter, but on the ranges he can acquit himself as a more-than-ordinary marksman. Their short rifles and long bayonets are deadly instruments, and their expert bayonet work demonstrated their efficiency in this form of hand-to-hand fighting.

In their physical drill practicability is the prime consideration. Their physical instructors—in this case the ubiquitous Y. M. C. A. expert—aim at developing their muscles, to "lift the men off the ground." These trainers do not aim at postural excellence, but strength and powers of endurance. The men cover ground rapidly, surmount obstacles with ease, and arrive at their destination ready and in a fit condition to meet a deadly foe. This will be their task in the battle line, and if an overdose of swinging of arms and bending of legs does not bring about the desired results, then it is cut down for the better forms of physical training. This is why jumping and running plays a big part in an American soldier's training. He must leap water-logged

ditches, go over barbed wire entanglements, climb muddy parapets and mount fences to fit himself for the task that is ahead of him.

Outside the hospital area of the camp at Fort Niagara there is an almost total absence of tents. The men, by companies, eat and sleep in long huts, with floors raised three or four feet from the ground. Designed in the interest of comfort and hygiene, these buildings add to the pleasures rather than the displeasures of camp life. There is no special mess for the officers, except those who live in the married quarters. The company officers sleep at one end of these long huts. These "officers' quarters" are separated from the men's by a low pine rail. They therefore work, eat and sleep with their men.

Very little ceremonial marks the camp life at Fort Niagara, the amount of time at the disposal of the officers and men is too limited; the latter have only a few weeks in which to prove their fitness. Only at sundown is a departure made from the training programme, when the colours are trooped, the ensign is dipped and the national anthem is played. In all, the scenes that are being enacted to-day at Niagara demonstrate that the spirit of Lincoln still lives, and that the Canadian army, with the allied forces, will receive the strong arm of fellowship from the men who themselves are steeped in democratic traditions. These men are training on historic ground to fight for historic principles; that "government of the people by the people for the people shall not perish from the earth."

Are We Eating Enough Fish

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order not to lose their drill-holes by being covered with the rapidly advancing water. Heavy rumblings on the river-bed began to be heard. Each day it was evident from the sound that masses of rock were rolling down the bed of the river and it seemed possible that the lower portion of the slide was being undermined and that a collapse of the whole bank might occur at any moment."

Still, the work proceeded. Then, on July 3rd, the run of salmon started at Hell's Gate, and it was found that sufficient had been accomplished to allow the stronger fish to make the passage of the rapids, but many were not able to ascend, and these were aided by being transferred over the worst piece of water with dip-nets.

The run of salmon increased and they became very abundant below Hell's Gate. Now the Indians take a hand in the fight against the salmon.

"The gathering of these fish below Hell's Gate and their scarcity above caused an influx of Indians from various parts of the canyon for fishing purposes. One band of Indians actually came down from the Nicola country with pack-ponies, evidently prepared for wholesale slaughter. It may be explained that from time immemorial Indians had caught and preserved fish on this portion of the canyon. Rights on certain fishing-rocks were handed down from father to son, through generations, and the privilege was jealously guarded. It was evident, from the wholesale manner in which these Indians were preparing to take salmon that unless their operations were put under some control very few fish would pass through the gate.

This situation was taken strongly in hand by the Department, and certain temporary restrictions placed on the Indians. Special guardians were appointed to see that the new regulations were enforced. This curtailment of the liberties of the Indians was very strongly resented, it being probably the first time this ancestral privilege had been in any degree interfered with. However the new regulations were enforced despite strong and organized objection, and the Indians doubtless obtained all the fish they required."

No sooner had the Indian problem been settled than a fresh difficulty arose. During August the river fell rapidly and as it did so its flow was so changed that the salmon could not make the passage of Hell's Gate. In order that the fish could ascend it became necessary to construct a flume. The report proceeds:

"The total length of the flume was 350 feet. The construction of the upstream end of this temporary fishway presented but little difficulty being constructed on a rock-bank prepared for the purpose. The greatest difficulty arose when rounding the point of Hell's Gate. It was necessary here to excavate a shelf in the solid rock for the purpose of easing the grade and supporting that portion of the flume. The work was performed under the most difficult conditions, the drillers working in a constant deluge of ice-cold water thrown up by the river. Finally however, the ledge was completed and that portion of the flume constructed. A further lowering of the

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