

FIFTY YEARS AGO THAT VERY DAY

**Fenian Raid Veterans
Foregather in the Parade
in Queen's Park, Toronto
--Remembering Ridgway**

The Veterans in the foreground of this picture didn't stop to ask in 1866, whether the things they carried on their shoulders towards the border were Ross Rifles or Lee-Enfields. They just took the old kitchen musket if there was nothing else and went out after the enemy. Those soldiers of the Fenian Raid were among the pluckiest we ever had. They were also some of the maddest. The idea of Sinn Feiners daring to cross parallel 49 to make trouble in this country after we had settled that dispute in 1815 was too much for those young chaps to endure without tall resentment. They were young then; younger than the average soldier marching past the monument in khaki. How the world has changed! How war has changed! How you and I have changed! Yes, but it is the same old flag, the same old cause of Empire and unity; yesterday, to-day and forever.



in his paper, greatly to its strengthening and interest.

Another thing which has made the Star what it is is the absolute impartiality of its news. Sir Hugh does not care a tinker's curse for the smile or frown of either political party. What there is to report, his paper will report, glossing over nothing and suppressing nothing either through fear or favour.

An instance of the impartiality of the news reports which has given the Star such a hold on the general public was seen at the last general election. The Montreal Star, while fighting the bitterest campaign of any paper in Canada against the Liberal Government, was the only paper in Canada to have a reporter accompany Sir Wilfrid Laurier throughout the whole of his campaign. The Toronto Star came the nearest to the Montreal Star in this matter, by having a man accompany Sir Wilfrid through the more important part of his campaign—but then the Toronto Star is a Liberal paper. The Montreal Star man had orders to give Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speeches and receptions adequate and fair reports. The result was that although the Star was fighting Sir Wilfrid Laurier tooth and nail, it gave him a better show than any other paper in Canada. Actually Liberals in the Star's constituency had to read the "Out-with-Laurier" Star to find out from its intimate daily reports what Sir Wilfrid Laurier was saying, what he was doing and how he was being received!

Now I am not holding out a brief for the Montreal Star. I don't suppose there is a paper in Canada which has been so bitterly assailed at one time or another, or that has enemies so consistently camping on its trail. So bitter has been the feeling at times in regard to the Star over its municipal politics that men have actually seized all the copies in the hands of newsboys and burned them on the public squares. Yet those very people have bought the Star the next day, and have bought it ever since. Even though they hated it, they had to have it, and it is the qualities I have described in the elusive but forceful personality of Sir Hugh Graham which have given the paper such a hold on the public that they have to buy it, and have to advertise in it whether they want to or not.

Winnipeg's Great Wednesday

WINNIPEG'S most memorable Wednesday will go on record as May 31, 1916. That was the day that all the bars of Manitoba went dry and when the trial of the former Cabinet Ministers of Manitoba began on the graft charges in connection with the new Parliament Buildings. Either of these sensations would have been enough for any common city or any ordinary province. Winnipeg stages up a double-header. Shut go the bars. In come the heavyweight legal talent. Alcohol becomes a non-resident of Manitoba. Graft is put on the gridiron in high places. Manitoba is bound to have things happen that don't look too much like revolution with the "r" left off. In which case let us not forget that a few months ago the Legislature put through a chivalrous bill mak-

ing it law for women to vote and to hold seats in the House. And at the same time Winnipeg is sending out soldiers as fast as she sometimes sends out cars of wheat, and is making a big move to take care of returned soldiers when they find themselves back in a country that no longer means the same to them because they are minus arms, legs or eyes.

There is yet no record of what Winnipeg felt like on Tuesday evening, May 30. That would be the last glimmer of the alcoholic constellations. Imagination fails to probe the psychology of the old-timer, who since he began to be a jovial frequenter of those rosy wine-rooms in Winnipeg, has seen the place grow from a trading-cart fur-post to a big 1916 model city.

This week the trek-out is full on. The barrels and the cases have been going across one border or another, contents to be re-shipped back under wholesale license for individual consumption whenever liquor-owners happen to have such a license in any

territory bordering on Manitoba. A large number of dealers have been disposing of their stock at a loss. The Hudson's Bay Company, who for years have been the pioneer wholesale liquor vendors of the West, were the most reluctant to give up the prerogative. Naturally, the Company of Gentlemen Adventurers trading with Rupert's Land were under a royal charter that far antedated Confederation. But they have gracefully conceded the point, and their great establishment up near the old Fort will turn its splendid liquor hall into—perhaps a rendezvous for dry-goods. Some hotels will close, and that will be no loss. The best hotels, which depended far less upon the bar than upon revenue from board and lodgings, will go on doing business much as usual. And so long as the sun shines on the wheat fields of Manitoba, that province will not have its ultimate faith shaken by a Wednesday that saw the abolition of 234 liquor licenses and the beginning of a trial involving an ex-Premier and ex-Ministers.

NOT A WILD FLOWER THIS TIME

The azalea, of which in the absence of our usual wild flower this is a remarkably good photograph, is altogether a greenhouse plant. Farther South, from Pennsylvania to Carolina, it is grown out of doors, and some varieties reach a height of 10 to 15 feet. It is one of the most beautiful of indoor decorative plants, and many wonderfully fine specimens are to be seen at the Allan Gardens in Toronto. One variety of Azalea, sometimes called rose bay, grows wild in Canada, but is not usually found west of Montreal. The rose bay, however, is really a rhododendron. Both the Azalea and the rhododendron belong to the Heath family, order Ericaceae, and are hardly separable botanically.

—Photo by Addison Reid.