

Great Cities of the World

VIII.—LIEGE, THE BIRMINGHAM OF EUROPE

During the early stages of the war no place was so prominently before the public as the Belgian city of Liege, which was destroyed so ruthlessly by the Germans, whose tremendous siege guns battered down the defences and knocked its splendid buildings into heaps of ruins.

The following interesting description of the ancient city, as it was before the bombardment, is from the popular English magazine, Sunday at Home.

"Strikingly beautiful and picturesque in situation is the Belgian city of Liege. In many respects it is one of the most remarkable places in Belgium—remarkable alike for the magnificence of its position, the activity of its citizens, and not least for its history, which has to some extent been detached from that of the rest of the country.

"As you near the town you see that it stretches its length along the banks of a winding river, spacious and full, for here the Ourthe and the Meuse have wedded their waters. Many bridges cross the river, one of them very stately, called the Bridge of Arches; towers of churches intermix themselves with tall factory chimneys; and here and there clusters of houses, raised on gentle heights and surrounded by greenery, relieve the prospect and give just that touch of variety which takes off the sense of monotony and dullness. The city lies close to the enclosing mountains on both sides, which so far explains its form—its lack of width, as you might say.

"It is a strange mixture of the strictly utilitarian and the purely beautiful; for in the midst of much natural beauty the Liegeois have established a veritable hive of industry. From whatever direction you approach their city you see clouds of smoke arising; you soon catch glimpses of many tall chimney stacks, and you quickly realize that it is with very good reason the place has been called the Birmingham of Belgium.

"From almost any point outside on either hand you can look down on this busy hive with its interests in coal and iron and other minerals, its lime and slate. The country round about is honey-combed with mines, worked on the most scientific principles; the citizens will tell you they even run under some parts of the city and the river. However this may be, the coal and iron declare their presence emphatically enough as the wealth of the people, who do not seem to lose any chance of turning them to account. There are also glass works and potteries of repute, in which many women are employed.

"Apart from the mines, the staple industry of Liege is the manufacture of firearms; but unlike his fellow craftsman in the English Birmingham, who works in factories where the weapons are turned out by the thousand, the gunsmith of Liege labors in his own home and takes each single weapon on completion to the gunshop for sale. It is said that there are forty thousand working gunsmiths in Liege and its suburbs. It seems to be a somewhat precarious means of livelihood, for each piece is carefully inspected and tested before it is accepted at the warehouse, and the least defect causes summary rejection.

"Opinions are divided as to the quality of Liege firearms, but in one respect, at any rate, they are supreme, and that is in lowness of price. An enormous trade is done in single-barrelled guns that are sold at fifteen shillings each. This class of gun has a ready sale, and in consequence the manufacture of first-class weapons has become less attractive to the workman, who merely wishes to earn his living in the easiest way, and who seems quite content if he can secure a wage of a pound or twenty-five shillings a week.

"In order to arrest this tendency and prevent the loss of an important branch of the trade, several factories for the manufacture of rifles have been opened of late years, and there is also a cannon foundry. The latter and one of the rifle factories belong to the State.

"The citizens of Liege have at all times been noted for their independent spirit, and this trait of their character is, no doubt, partly due to the fact that amongst so many of them each man is virtually his own master.

ple of Liege have been of their old monuments, in as far as that was compatible with the development of business.

"But, of course, the presence of coal and iron inevitably follows you; the streets in the busier parts of the town bear traces of them. To enjoy the amenities of Liege you must make up your mind to this fact, then you will find your journeys and investigations well rewarded.

"Old and interesting monuments the city has in abundance, for Liege has played its part in history and has a record of bold struggle for freedom and independence such as few towns can surpass. Sir Walter Scott made good use of it in Quentin Durward, and though he never saw the city, has given such a vivid picture of it that his very mistakes seem to attest his genius.

"Indefatigable industry and a partiality for severe labor are among the strongest characteristics of the Liegeois, but they have frequently manifested a fierce and implacable spirit of hostility towards those who have attempted to infringe their liberties. The history of Liege records a series of sanguinary insurrections, of the turbulent and unbridled populace, against the oppressive and arrogant bishops by whom they were governed. Foreign armies have frequently been invoked by the latter to chastise their rebellious subjects.

"The daily life of the citizen begins at an early hour. By eight o'clock practically every family will have finished breakfast, and those who live near the markets will have purchased their provisions as well. The business men of the city work their hardest all the morning, and by noon the greater part of the day's duty is done. Then comes an interval of two hours for rest and refreshment, after which the business of the day goes on at a leisurely pace until work is finished; and the Liegeois, having to be up betimes, have the good sense to go to bed early. By nine o'clock or a little later the lights are all out in nearly every house on most nights of the week. The Belgian is not, as a rule, a great reader. He contents himself for the most part with the morning and evening newspapers, and as there is no need for him to keep late hours, he goes to bed like a wise man.

"A marked characteristic of the people is their enthusiasm for music. Bands, and very good bands, too, are fairly numerous. They provide occasional concerts, indoors and out, of considerable merit; but their most frequent public appearances are at funerals. Whenever an old or prominent citizen dies the band attends the funeral and leads the procession to the strains of either the Dead March in 'Saul,' or Chopin's Marche Funebre. When the music stops the priest, who follows, intones the lessons; then come the family mourners, the women closely veiled, and finally a crowd of friends, acquaintances, and even strangers. When the funeral happens to be that of a young woman, girls and children attend as an escort to the coffin, which is always borne to the church on men's shoulders. The respect which the Belgians give to their dead is very marked and reveals great depth of feeling.

"Apart from music, the Liegeois is content with very little in the way of recreation or amusement. In the cafes, the chief of which are contained in the Place St. Lambert, the men play dominoes, sometimes backgammon, or bac, and on rare occasions chess. But their greatest pleasure is probably derived from gossip while they sit at their ease in the cafes.

"It is commonly supposed that the women of Belgium—and, of course, the women of Liege amongst them—are very fond of pleasure. Be this as it may, it is certain they get very little of it. They are supposed by their men-folk to find whatever amusement they require in their work and in their household duties and it is only on fete days and other very special occasions that work is permitted to give place to pleasure. The fine clothes of which the women are so proud seldom see the light of day except when their possessors attend church or, in fine weather, take part in the Sunday afternoon promenade.

"Even amongst the middle classes, when the man goes to his cafe, or his circle, to read the papers or hear the latest gossip of the town, his wife remains at home and busies herself with her household duties. It is only on fete days and on Sundays during the Summer that she expects to accompany her husband and make an excursion to the home

of her own family or possibly open-air cafe, to chat with her friends and see and hear what is going on. The fact is, the people of Liege and of every other part of Belgium are essentially domestic, finding their pleasure at home in the daily round of work and duty. Indeed, the chief feature of the social life of Liege is its domesticity. The family and its affairs form the pivot upon which the whole system turns.

"One of the most striking of the many attractions of Liege is the court of the grand palace of its ancient prince-bishops, with its long rows of beautifully sculptured pillars and its exquisitely carved, gilded, arched roof. Then there is the Palais Provincial, a building of fine proportions, with some splendid sculpture and delicate decoration. The University, too, is well worth a visit. It was founded in 1817 by William the First of Holland, and possesses a large library and botanic garden, as well as a museum of natural history, which contains some interesting fossil remains of primitive man. It is said, and doubtless with truth, that in all Europe there is not a better teaching college for all departments of engineering than the technical school at Liege University. And it has a special merit in its from eight to ten pounds; and its remarkable cheapness. The annual fee for any of the courses varies from eight to ten pounds; and after the first year's payment the student has the right to attend all subsequent lectures in the same subject without further charge.

FORECLOSURE SALE

1914 A. No. 2250
IN THE SUPREME COURT

Between
ABNER WILLIAM School Plaintiff
—And—
OLIVER S. MILLER and CANADA CALENDAR COMPANY, Defendants.

To be sold at Public Auction by Edwin Gates, Esquire, High Sheriff in and for the County of Annapolis, or his deputy, at the Court House in Bridgetown, in the County of Annapolis, on
Saturday, the 23rd day of January, A. D. 1915, at the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon.

Pursuant to an order of Foreclosure and Sale made herein and dated the 17th day of December, A. D. 1914, unless before the day appointed for such Sale the amount due the Plaintiff on the mortgage foreclosed herein with his costs be paid to him or his solicitor;

All the estate, right, title, interest, property, claim, demand and equity of redemption of the above named Defendants, and of all persons claiming, or entitled by, from or under them, of, in, to or out of all that certain piece or parcel of land and premises, situate, lying and being in Bridgetown in the County of Annapolis, and bounded and described as follows:

That certain piece or parcel of land and premises situate at Bridgetown in the said County of Annapolis, bounded and described as follows:

Commencing on the Park Road so-called, where the same would be intersected by a line running across the south side of the barn now built on the property herein described, thence running westwardly in a straight line along the south side of the said barn to a point where the said line running across the south side of said barn would be intersected by a line drawn from a point on the Granville Highway or Street, forty-six feet from the embankment, running past the east side of said Oliver S. Miller's house to the street in a line parallel with the west side of the house, thence turning and running southerly along the above described line parallel with the house as aforesaid, to the Granville Highway or Street, thence turning and running westwardly along said Granville Highway or Street, to lands of the said Oliver S. Miller, thence turning and running northwardly along lands of the said Oliver S. Miller, to the base rear line of the said Owen P. Covert's land, until it comes to the aforesaid Park Road, thence turning and running southerly along the said Park Road to the place of beginning.

Also the said Oliver S. Miller is to have the privilege of entering upon the lands of the said Owen P. Covert for the purpose of repairing the barn on the south side of the said street when the said barn shall need repairing and also the said Owen P. Covert agrees to allow the dropping of water from the eaves of the said barn on his land.

Also all that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being at Bridgetown, in the County of Annapolis, bounded and described as follows: Commencing on the west side of the Park Road, so-called, where the same is intersected by the north line of lands purchased by the said Oliver S. Miller from William A. Chipman, and conveyed to him by deed bearing date the 18th day of June, A. D. 1904, thence running westwardly along the northern boundary of said land until it comes to lands of James R. DeWitt, thence turning and running northwardly along the lands of the said James R. DeWitt until it comes to lands of Wainford Dodge, thence turning and running eastwardly in a straight line along lands purchased from the said William A. Chipman by Susan Durling, and purchased from the said Susan Durling by said Oliver S. Miller, to a street marked on the plan of said William A. Chipman property and known as Tupper Street, thence continuing in a southwesterly direction along the south side of said Tupper Street until it comes to the Park Road, so-called, thence continuing south along the west side of the Park Road, so-called, until it comes again to the place of beginning, saving and except lands formerly deeded to Reuben Jodrey and Samuel Ebleston by the said William A. Chipman, in consideration of the sum of three hundred dollars.

Also, all and singular that certain other piece or parcel of lands and premises, situate, lying and being in the Town of Bridgetown, in the said County of Annapolis, and bounded and described as follows: Beginning on the north side of Laurier Street, so-called, at the centre of the ditch, thence running easterly along the north side of said Laurier Street thirty three feet to a stake, thence running northwardly one hundred and seventy-two feet to a stake, thence running westerly at right angles, fifty-two feet to the centre of the ditch aforesaid, thence running southerly along the centre of the said ditch to the place of beginning.

TERMS OF SALE.—Ten per cent deposit at time of sale, remainder on delivery of deed.
Dated at Bridgetown, N.S., this 18th day of December, A. D. 1914.
EDWIN GATES,
High Sheriff in and for the County of Annapolis.
BARRY W. ROSCOE,
of Roscoe & Roscoe,
Bridgetown, N.S.,
Solicitor of Plaintiff.

The first decisive step in the raising of the Maritime Regiment of Cavalry has been taken. Word has reached Halifax that Major R. H. Ryan, a South African war veteran, will command the regiment of mounted rifles to be raised in the Maritime Provinces.

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