

The Waterdown Review

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Waterdown

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DURING the strong enemy counter-attack a Lewis gun in a forward post in a communication trench leading to the enemy lines, was buried by a shell, and the crew, with the exception of one man, killed.

Sergt. Hobson, though not a gunner, grasped the great importance of the post, rushed from the trench, dug out the gun and got it into action against the enemy who were now advancing down the trench and across the open.

A jam caused the gun to stop firing. Though wounded, he left the gunner to correct the stoppage, rushed forward at the advancing enemy and, with bayonet and clubbed rifle, single-handed, held them back until he himself was killed by a rifle shot. By this time, however, the Lewis gun was again in action and reinforcements shortly afterwards arriving, the enemy were beaten off.

The valor and devotion to duty displayed by this non-commissioned officer gave the gunner the time required to again get the gun into action, and saved a most serious situation.—Official Record.

The labyrinth of trenches between Hill 70 and the city of Lens was captured by the Canadians in the attack of August 15, 1917. That piece of ground had passed between hands so often in the three years previous that No Man's Land was a maze of trenches running in all directions. In places they led directly from the Canadians to the Germans' lines, and were divided only by blocks garrisoned by machine guns. The weather, which was unsettled and sultry on the 15th, by the 18th was clear and sunny and the rains of two weeks previous were quickly drying the chalky soil.

Nabob alley was one of the old communication lines leading across No Man's Land. Up this trench on the morning of the 15th Sergt. Hobson, of the 20th Battalion, had bombed his way for about 70 yards. There he established a post and garrisoned it with Lewis guns. The conquered trench was held for three days by "A" Company.

Midnight of August 17-18 passed. It was the dark of the moon and little could be seen of what was going on out on No Man's Land. At 1.40 o'clock the silence of the night was broken by the roar of enemy artillery. Every inch of the Canadian front line was deluged with shells. For half an hour the din and devastating fire continued. Every wire to the 20th Battalion headquarters was broken.

Then a lull came. The men in Nabob alley crouched in their trench while gas shells poured over them on to the village of St. Pierre behind them. Another pause and the artillery broke out again. Every gun that the Hun could bring up was trained on Hill 70. The ground was torn up and tons of earth and stones hurled into the air. Men were killed in groups. Practically every Lewis gun was smashed or buried beside its crew. The advanced posts were ground into the earth. The Canadian lines were in confusion.

Then down the line the word was passed from lip to lip that the Hun was out in No Man's Land, coming towards Nabob alley. Sergt. Hobson peered into the darkness and saw the grey figures of the enemy coming at the double. They came down Nabob alley, where only one Lewis gun was now left. The gunner trained his fire on the wave of German grey, but while he was in the action a shell made a direct hit and buried crew and gun. Only one man was alive when Hobson ran up to the spot and started digging him out. He pulled him out of the debris, bruised and dazed.

"Pretty close call," the gunner said to his rescuer, but Hobson was already digging at the gun, while the Huns advanced down the trench.

"Let's get this out," said Hobson, and the two men began to dig with all their might. The Germans came closer in the dark. Hobson was struck by a stick bomb, but on he went with his work. The gun must be got out at all costs. At last they got it into position and the gunner opened on the enemy with telling effect. Two men were holding back the German advance. Then the gun jammed.

Grabbing a rifle, Hobson ran ahead.

"I'll keep them back. You fix the gun," he said and opened on the enemy. With bayonet and clubbed rifle he fought them off till a pile of their dead lay at his feet.

"All right," shouted the gunner to Hobson, and opened on the invaders.

But at that moment a German got a direct aim and Hobson fell, killed instantly.

The gunner made the enemy pay dearly for the deed. With his Lewis gun he stemmed the advance until he was reinforced by another company and they turned the Germans back. But the hero who had saved the post in the first onrush lay dead—his rifle still tightly grasped in his hand. They found him when dawn was coming over the ridge.

Frederick Hobson was born in London, England, in 1876. Before coming to Canada he had been in the Imperial forces. He enlisted in the 20th Battalion at Toronto in October, 1914. On the morning of August 17, Hobson was acting sergeant-major, and it was in fulfillment of his responsibilities in that capacity that he made his last gallant defence of his battalion and won the Victoria Cross.—Carolyn Cornell in Toronto Star Weekly.

The Crucial Moment.

The time when life's affairs begin To seem entirely wrong Is when you've started butting in Where you do not belong.

"Ruby" Wheat.

A new wheat named "Ruby" is reported to have been cultivated at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. It is a selection from the result of a cross between Downing Riga and Red Fife. Ruby wheat ripens, as a rule, a week or so earlier than Marquis. The kernels are somewhat similar to those of Red Fife, being hard and of the popular reddish brown color. The straw in most localities is shorter than Marquis and of good strength.

Peace River Exploration.

A Government survey party has proceeded to the Peace River district to conduct exhaustive work on all unsurveyed country. The main purpose is to meet the requirements of the Soldier Settlement Branch, but, in addition, the party will carry out a departmental geological survey.

To Help Europe.

The Canadian Government has arranged for credits there for various European countries for commodities needed in reconstruction.

Credits Must Be Established for Sale of Surplus Products.

Success of Victory Loan 1919 Will Insure Steady Markets for Farmers.

It takes some six bushels of wheat to feed the average person in Canada annually. Roughly, therefore, the eight million people here consume about 50,000,000 bushels each year. But even in a poor year the crop is some five times that amount, and the surplus must be sold if the farmers are to get a return for their time and labor. But the sale of the crop must be financed. Great Britain, which provides our greatest market, has not the ready cash, and so Canada must find means of raising the money. Hence the Victory Loan 1919, in view of the fact that the prosperity of the Dominion is dependent to a considerable extent upon the sale of her surplus grain the necessity of the money being forthcoming is patent.

Your dollar may be the last straw that sweeps the Victory Loan over the top—would you take the chance of making it a failure?

Lend your money that your pay envelope may be always filled, as will follow the success of the Victory Loan.

Victory Bonds are the fodder that keeps the machinery of Canada's industrial world running at full speed.

Dry Dock in St. John, N.B.

Work is being pushed on the Courtenay Bay dry dock and breakwater by the St. John Dry Dock & Shipbuilding Co. An appropriation of \$700,000 for the contract has just been made by Parliament. It is anticipated that a British shipbuilding firm will establish a mammoth plant in the vicinity of the dry dock.

Bears Kill Trees.

Hundreds of trees in the Northwest, including Douglas fir, white fir and western white pine—the wood of all of which is used more or less in airplane construction—have been seriously damaged by bears peeling the bark. About 100 trees to the square mile have been peeled.

If you appreciate a good investment you will buy a Victory Bond.

You deceive no one but yourself when you say you can't afford a Victory Bond.

Victory Loan 1919 Is Bridge Between War and Peace.

Agricultural and Industrial Prosperity of Canada Depends on Success of the Loan.

Why is it necessary to have another Victory Loan? Have you heard this query? Or have you asked it?

The Victory Loan of this year stands out as the bridge between war and peace. The war is over. Our boys won that. The reconstruction period is dawning and we at home must win that.

Much of the money that Canada is asking for will be needed to clean up the war debt. The expenses of demobilization were heavy, and there is still much of it unpaid. Now that our men are back, let it not be said that we repudiated the debt for bringing them back.

The sick and wounded soldiers still in hospitals are expecting that Canada will care for them and their dependents until they have been returned to health and strength. The hospital services must be maintained at full strength as long as there are returned men needing attention.

Many men through disability are unable to return to their pre-war occupations. The Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment is doing a fine work in training returned soldiers in trades and professions that they can earn a living at, and is following up the training and seeing that they obtain remunerative employment. The maintaining of this branch of reconstructive service calls for much funds, and the Victory Loan will be used to pay for it as well as the other purposes.

Under the Soldiers' Land Settlement Act, enough money is lent to returned soldiers to enable them to buy and stock a farm. This money will be repaid at a low rate of interest. The soldier is thus given a chance to re-instate himself in civil life, and production is given a boost. Of the total amount of the forthcoming loan, \$24,000,000 has been apportioned to finance these soldier-farmers.

Pensions to the disabled and dependents of our glorious dead, as well as the authorized gratuities will be other items on the expense sheet. These are some of the obligations owing to the returned soldier who is now in health.

The maintaining of Canada's prosperity is an important reason why the Victory Loan should be a smashing success. The money is needed to finance the credits to overseas countries so that they may continue their trade relations with us. If Canada cannot give these credits other countries will, and then Canada will lose all that great overseas trade that has been the mainstay of our agricultural and industrial life for so long.

As an investment Victory Bonds are eminent. Paying 5 1/2 per cent, selling above par on the open market, and guaranteed by the Dominion—what further reason can you have for hesitating? The Victory Loan 1919 ought to be oversubscribed, and all right-thinking citizens will do their utmost to see that such a result is obtained.

TO CARE FOR WOUNDED

Money From Victory Loan Will Be Used to Re-establish Soldiers.

Our soldiers in France faced perils other than those of shell and gas and machine-gun fire. There was the peril of tuberculosis. Up to August last 3,909 soldiers suffering from this disease had been returned to Canada. These were placed in sanatoriums under the direction of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, and they are one of the departments of that branch that must be maintained, and come under the head of capital war outlay.

All of these men and some 20,000 others, disabled or ill, will be looked after with money raised through the Victory Loan 1919. It is the sacred duty of Canadians that the money is forthcoming.

If you are concerned about the future welfare of Canada, buy a Victory Bond and make it a sure thing.

Don't forget the future of your children. Lay a good foundation with a Victory Bond.

Would you lend a soldier \$50 if you knew it would save his life? Buy Victory Bonds and keep the military hospitals up.