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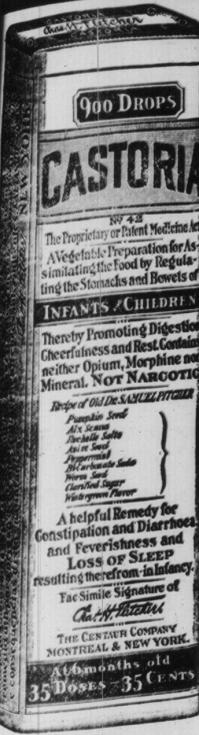
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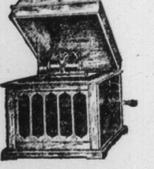
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LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE

Mrs. Cann, Widow of Lieut. Cann, Has Many Friends in Bridgetown

Minister's Office,
Ottawa, Jan., 1918.

Dear Mrs. Cann.—I desire to express to you my very sincere sympathy in the recent decease of your husband, Lieut. Gilbert Franklin Cann, C. E. F., who in sacrificing his life at the front in action with the enemy, has rendered the highest services of a worthy citizen. The heavy loss which you and the nation have sustained, would indeed be depressing were it not redeemed by the knowledge that the brave comrade for which we mourn, performed his duties fearlessly and well as became a good soldier, and gave his life for the great cause of human liberty and the defence of the Empire. Again extending to you in your bereavement my condolence and heartfelt sympathy, I am
Yours faithfully,
S. F. MEWBURN,
Minister of Militia and Defence for Canada.

In the Field, France,
Jan. 28, 1918.

Mrs. G. F. Cann,
South Ohio, Yar. Co., N. S.

My Dear Mrs. Cann.—You have already received the sad news that your husband died of wounds received on the 14th January, 1918. I wish to express to you the sympathy of all the officers, N. C. O.'s and men of the 85th Canadian Infantry Battalion, N. S. Highlanders. Your husband was among the first men to join the 85th. By his character and ability he soon became an N. C. O. and did very excellent work in training Lewis gunners. About two months after the battalion came to France, just at the conclusion of the battle of Vimy Ridge he left for England to qualify for his commission. I remember very well indeed his gallantry in the action at Vimy when he supervised the Lewis guns. On his return to France as an officer he was even a greater help to the Battalion, first as Lewis gun officer, and then when the position of Intelligence and Scout Officer became vacant, he expressed a desire for this position, which you will understand is a very important one in the Battalion, and could only be given to an officer of exceptional courage. He was so eminently qualified for the position that I gladly appointed him as such.

We went into the line and the first night in, he went out in No Man's Land with a patrol and received a very serious wound by rifle or machine gun bullets in the vicinity of the stomach. A stretcher party at once went out and brought him in and he was rushed out of the line as quickly as possible. Our medical officer, who I consulted at the time, said that the wound was very serious, but that he was making such a brave fight and was so strong physically and lived such a clean life, that possibly he had a slight chance. In a couple of days we received the word however that he had died. His death is a great loss to me personally and to his brother officers and to the men who knew him so well. I hope that in the midst of your sorrow, you will be able to be proud of the fine manner in which he lived out his life.

Sincerely yours,
LT.-COL. A. H. BORDEN,
Commanding 85th Can. Inf. Batt.

Old Waverly Hotel,
43 Princess St., Edinburgh.
Jan. 1918

My Dear Mrs. Cann.—Ere these few lines reach you, you will very likely have received that message which has brought to you and your loved ones great sorrow, in the death of your dear young husband. At this time I wish to extend to you my sincere sympathy and I feel very very sorry.

As Frank was one of my valued friends, I will miss him greatly. I have written to Percy Hamilton and know that he too will feel badly that our good friend and comrade has been called upon to give his young life in battle. We boys in France meet these sad circumstances every day and my sympathy surely goes home to the loved ones of those who have fallen.

I might say, Mrs. Cann, I am spending my first 14 days' leave in Scotland, having left France on the 19th inst. I am planning to spend a day or so with Percy in Bramshott, as I understand he is in the medical office there.

I do not wish to cause you more sorrow, but just feel you will appreciate a few words from me in connection with the wounding and burial of your husband, as I was probably the last person to clasp Frank's hand and say good-bye, as the medical officer, Capt. Brown and I dressed his wound and rushed him out of the trenches to the hospital. It was nearly midnight on the 14th-15th, when word came to the dressing station that Lt. Cann had been wounded while out on patrol, and the stretcher bearers could not get him through the trench on account of the narrowness, so Capt. Brown and I



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Immediately left with our dressings, accompanied by two runners. When we reached the dug-out, to which place they had taken Frank and he was comfortable on a stretcher, we immediately dressed the wound and placed a clean dry blanket under him and over him. The medical officer gave him a hypodermic to relieve his pain.

He was quite cheerful and spoke to us and was resting nicely. However, the stretcher bearers were right there and we placed an emergency ticket on him and he was rushed right out. On account of the snow on the ground many of the officers and men were dressed in all white, and I must tell you that Frank was awfully pale. I readily noticed that as he always had such a high color.

We held very little hope for his recovery as the wound was severe, two machine gun bullets having gone right through the abdomen. Indeed we all felt badly to hear that Lt. Cann had passed away at No. 57 Casualty Clearing Station on the 15th.

On the morning of the 17th, I left the dressing station at 9.20 to proceed on leave and when I reached the transport lines at about 11.30, Lieut. Curry, our pay master, was just leaving to attend the funeral of our departed comrade, which was to take place at 2 o'clock from No. 57 C. C. S. He was very glad to have me go with him, and indeed I felt it was my Christian privilege and duty.

On arriving at the C. C. S. Lt. Curry was talking with the matron, who told us Lt. Cann was unconscious and therefore left no message. They immediately operated upon him and he lived about 12 hours, everything possible was done that loving hands could do to save the life of this young husband and dear friend. Doubtless you have received a comforting message from the Chaplain, who spoke beautiful words at the grave, amid the little group of about ten sorrowing friends. I shall never forget that little service, Mrs. Cann. "In the midst of life we are in death." It is also true that "In the midst of death we are in life," and truly your dear husband and our comrade is in God's keeping until that day when we shall meet in Heaven.

I'm afraid I have written too lengthy a message, but being the only one present whom you had met, I felt it my duty to write to you. May our dear Heavenly Father comfort you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,
SERGT. S. F. WILLIAMS,
Medical Orderly.

[Mrs. Cann, widow of Lieut. Cann, was for several months, last year, a member of W. H. Maxwell's staff in his confectionery and ice cream parlor, Queen street. The large number of patrons of that establishment and her many personal friends here, will be pleased to learn that she intends to return about the first of May.]

Society may set itself up on the top of a mountain, but any donkey laden with gold can reach it.

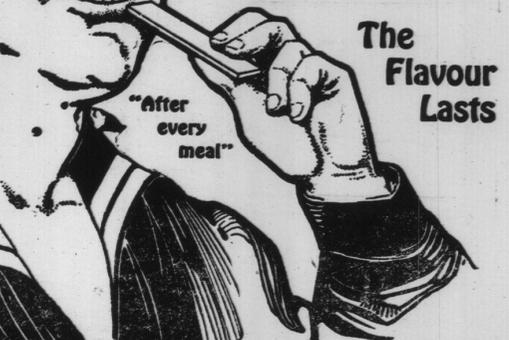
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