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JOHN S. SCOTT,  
Editor and Manager.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12th, 1916

Breezy Notes From  
The Battle's Din

The following letter was received by Mrs. James T. Crocker, of Millerton, from her son, Alward C. Crocker, who is somewhere in France:

Dear Mother,  
I received a letter from home yesterday, and am glad to know you are all O. K. It must be very uncomfortable in the intense heat, but I expect by now it is much cooler. We have had a very cool summer in France, as compared with last year, and I swear my overcoat in the mornings and evenings when driving.

I have been intending to write you a short description of France, as I see it, for some time, but have not had time to do so. I am having it easier just now. For a few weeks before the big push came off, and up till late in the day, I worked four days and nights without sleep. Finally I fell asleep at the wheel and crashed into a tree, and severely damaged my radiator. It was just as well the tree was where it was, or I would have taken a day ride down an embankment. I went in the workshop for two days after the accident, and slept all the time. There have been quite a few accidents in our column and through drivers going to sleep. I can tell you it is misery trying to keep awake, plodding along at eight miles an hour.

We have made a move lately, and are now at the other end of the line, and the country is much flatter here. One night another lad and I were detailed to take material for gun beds up to, within six hundred yards of the Germans' first line trenches. That is pretty close to take a Jerry, and I felt safer when I had a few miles between me and them, as they sweep the roads with machine guns occasionally. But it was dark and I hid behind a stump of trees, for star shells were some very occasionally.

There are a great many Australians and Canadians about here, but I have not seen any from home yet. They are a fine looking lot of men and are in good spirits. The Germans were greatly surprised by our strength when we started advancing on the Somme. Our advance was terrible, as we put over five million shells in ten days. The rear was continual day and night, but it is much better to spend ammunition and smash their defenses completely, before the soldiers advance, as we have found out the hard way. It is a wonderful how clearly the men are after going through what they have and they never think of anything but victory, but often ask among themselves: "How long do you think it will last?" A notion like ours with unlimited resources never has been defeated, as we never know when we are getting the worst of it, and our bulldog determination keeps us going on till the other nation's resources run out. It looked very bleak for us a year ago, but we reloaded our energies and now complete victory is easily in sight, thanks partially to the Paris conference, but we will have a trade war after this is over. There are two and a half million people in England at work on munitions, so you can imagine the amount they would turn out, besides what we get from home and the United States, and still we need more.

The French are harvesting their wheat now, and the crop is very good, as the land is very productive, and the weather favorable. There will be no shortage of food here for another year, but they have our navy to thank for that. When I was driving about the country a short time ago, I saw large fields of grain. They don't put their hay and grain in a barn, as we do at home, but bind it and stack it in the field, and that saves the top to keep out the rain. They live in villages and drive out to their work, some of them going as far as two miles. They don't believe in cutting up fences either. I have driven a hundred miles through the country at a time, and haven't seen a fence, yet they cultivate every inch of available ground, and on patches that we wouldn't think of cultivating, they have wheat or oats growing. They are not much like the people in England or Scotland, where I have been, who waste thousands and thousands of acres of good land, that should now be under cultivation.

I know of one estate in England of 7000 acres, and about all I saw on it was rabbits, and the poor people are not allowed to shoot them, and I was told that it was very good farm land. The French people have the funniest way of driving their horses. Instead of two reins, they have one, and how they manage to guide the horse is a mystery to me. Of course the poor old horses are not as wild as ours, and have more sense than the drivers.

We are having much more rain lately than for the past three months and we are having a taste of last winter's mud. I'm beginning to dread the wet season, as the roads in this section are not as good as where we were last winter. The centre of the main roads are built of cobble stones, but the sides are soft, and when

it is wet, one must be very careful. I receive the papers from home regularly, and Ernest sends me papers and magazines, so I have plenty of reading matter. I also got a large tin of tobacco from a friend in Los Angeles. I can't use the army issue tobacco, and the cigarettes we get weekly are impossible, so the gift was very welcome. There is some talk of getting up a cinema in our company, also a recreation room like we had last winter, and I surely hope they do. The Y. M. C. A. is doing invaluable work out here, providing recreation rooms, and canteens for the soldiers, where they sell our requirements at cost. They keep a great many soldiers away from the cafes, where all they sell is beer and wine.

I hope you all keep well. I must stop and go to the post with this. Write often. Love to all.  
ALWARD.

PERSONALS

J. D. Creaghan spent Saturday at Moncton.

A. E. Petrie spent Thanksgiving in Harcourt.

Miss Annie Lawlor spent the holiday in Moncton.

Ald. H. H. Stuart spent Saturday afternoon in St. John.

Mrs. Charles Dickson has left for a visit to friends in Boston.

Mrs. John McKean of Loggieville is visiting friends in town.

Mr. D. J. Buckley was among the visitors to St. John last week.

Mr. William Edgett of St. John spent part of last week in town.

Dr. F. J. Desmond was in Bathurst on Sunday on professional business.

Hon. Frank J. Sweeney, of Moncton, was a visitor in town over Sunday.

Leut. and Mrs. Arthur Jardine, of Sussex, spent the holiday with relatives here.

Miss Maud Atkinson is spending a few days with friends at Call's Mills, Kent Co.

J. F. R. MacMichael and sons Frank and Ralph, spent Tuesday in St. John.

Mrs. (Dr.) D. R. Moore has returned from a ten days visit to her old home at Stanley.

County Secy. Treas. E. P. Williston spent the holiday with his grandson at Rosethy.

Pioneer George Johnston of the 122nd Battalion, Sussex, spent Sunday with his family here.

Mrs. C. P. Harris of Moncton, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. E. H. Sinclair at "The Bridge."

Mrs. Robert Wright who has been visiting her husband, who is ill, has returned to St. John.

Leut. Frank J. Lawlor of the 132nd Battalion, Sussex, is spending a few days at his home here.

Mrs. John C. Woods left on Saturday morning on a visit to relatives in Brockton and Malden, Mass.

Miss Ethel Atkinson of Bathurst, spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Atkinson.

Mrs. Charles McCullough, of Lower Onslow, N. S., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McAuley.

Mrs. T. V. Tozer of Campbellton, is the guest of her mother, Mrs. C. A. and sister, Mrs. John Troy.

Mrs. Emily Wyse and Mrs. A. B. Leard are attending the W. C. T. U. Convention in Moncton this week.

Mr. John Dickson of Napan, returned home on Tuesday, after a visit to her daughter, Mrs. John Ashford.

Mr. George Stables, Miss Helen Stables and Miss Mimmie Stohart, were among the holiday visitors to St. John.

Miss Ida Irving and Miss Woods, of St. John, spent Thanksgiving with Miss Irving's father, Deputy Sheriff Irving here.

A. J. Gross, Supt. of Ry. mail service for New Brunswick, with headquarters at St. John, visited Newcastle, Wednesday.

Miss Evelyn Williamson spent Thanksgiving at her home in Newcastle, and returned to Fredericton Tuesday morning.

Sergt. Roy Dickson and Pte. Stewart Stables, of the 132nd Batt., Sussex are spending a few days at their respective homes here.

Mrs. Edward Walsh was called here from Barnaby River, owing to the sudden illness of her husband, Policeman Edward Walsh.

Mr. Louis James, a former Newcastle resident, but lately residing at Portland, Me., was in town this week renewing acquaintances.

Miss Mariel Atkinson of Provincial Normal school returned to Fredericton yesterday, after spending the holiday at her home here.

Miss Mary Adams and Miss Lottie Hartt, both of the Campbellton teaching staff spent the holiday at Miss Adams' home in Strathadam.

Mrs. Wm. Iteld and children, have returned to town after a visit of several months in Boston, and are the guests of Mrs. William Reid, sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter A'Haran went to Aldershot, N. S., on Tuesday morning, to see their son, Sergt. Charles A'Haran, of the 219th N. S. Highlanders.

Mrs. Otto Gertz and Mrs. F. E. Miller returned on Saturday to Boston, after a three weeks visit spent with their mother, Mrs. Martin Black.

J. Russell McCurdy, son of Rev. J. F. McCurdy, of Redbank, has resigned from the Royal Bank staff here, and enrolled as a student at Wolfville Academy.

Rev. G. S. Anderson of Metanedia, is spending a few days at Douglas-town, having been called there by the serious illness of his brother-in-law, Mr. John Alexander.

Friends of Mr. Thomas Stewart, the well known tailor and musician, will regret to learn that he is seriously ill. Mr. Stewart was taken to the Miramichi Hospital last evening.

Mrs. Charles Pavce who has been visiting her mother, Daniel Sullivan here, and her sister, Mrs. J. McNiel Campbellton, returned to her home in Fredericton on Thursday.

Mrs. W. W. Barton and two children arrived on Saturday to spend the winter with Mrs. Barton's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McAuley. Mr. Barton is now in England with the 145th Battalion.

Mr. J. W. Brankley and Miss Allison Brankley, of Chatham, and Miss Minnie P. Ingram of Newcastle, motored to Fredericton Thursday afternoon and were guests at the Barker House. They left on Friday morning for St. John, and returned home on Saturday.

The many friends of little Miss Margaret Clark, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Clark, of Newcastle, formerly of this place, will hear with regret that she is confined to her home with an attack of diphtheria, and wish her a most speedy recovery. —Campbellton Tribune.

A NEW WONDER

(Popular Science Monthly)

When the possibilities of sending messages over a wire by electricity were first realized, soon after Morse demonstrated the first telegraph, the limitations in the message carrying ability of a plain circuit were encountered. The ordinary good operator could send only one complete message per minute, and to do this he required the full use of the wire connecting with the receiver. Each line was thus limited to about four hundred messages per hour.

It became clear that extremely high rates would have to be charged for messages over expensive long-distance wires. The greatest cost of the telegraph system was due to the erection and maintenance of the lines, and therefore the operators made lower charges possible by increasing the number of messages which could be handled on each wire.

The first step towards solving the problem of message limitation came with the duplex telegraph, which made it possible for two operators to use a single wire at the same time. In this system two streams of messages pass over the wire simultaneously, in opposite directions, so that the capacity is doubled. The next step was the quadruplex, in which four messages are sent simultaneously over one wire, thus increasing the normal capacity some ten or twelve times. In this system the messages are first punched into special tapes by perforating operators. The tapes are simultaneously punched out by ten perforators which will usually keep in full operation. At the receiving station the messages are printed in dots and dashes on a second tape, this is divided into suitable lengths and distributed amongst a number of transcribing operators who translate the Morse code and write out the message for delivery. The system is entirely practical and is used in connection with the ocean cables. In the United States it is not favored for inter-city telegraphing because of the loss of time which results from the series of processes through which messages must pass.

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The newest and most perfect page printing telegraph is that which the Western Electric engineers have recently completed. In this system a single wire is used not only to carry eight messages simultaneously, four in each direction, but to print them on blanks at the receivers, ready for delivery. Thus the speed of direct printing operation fifty words per minute is combined with a distributor to use a single wire at the same time. In this system two streams of messages pass over the wire simultaneously, in opposite directions, so that the capacity is doubled. The next step was the quadruplex, in which four messages are sent simultaneously over one wire, thus increasing the normal capacity some ten or twelve times. In this system the messages are first punched into special tapes by perforating operators. The tapes are simultaneously punched out by ten perforators which will usually keep in full operation. At the receiving station the messages are printed in dots and dashes on a second tape, this is divided into suitable lengths and distributed amongst a number of transcribing operators who translate the Morse code and write out the message for delivery. The system is entirely practical and is used in connection with the ocean cables. In the United States it is not favored for inter-city telegraphing because of the loss of time which results from the series of processes through which messages must pass.

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