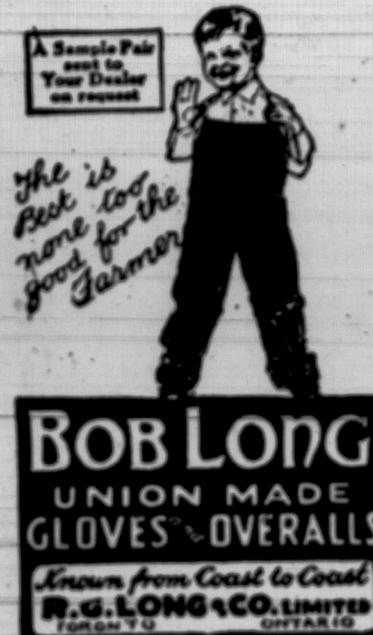


September 5, 1917.



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fatigues, or any other part of my regimental duties other than certain interesting and thrice-daily rites not unconnected with the kitchen.

The paymaster fell sick. A young subaltern was acting for him. My sergeant pal tipped me off. As I have said, I was an old soldier with all that that implies. He marched me up to the officer, already more or less at sea about his new duties. I asked for money. He was aware of my history but not of the tangle I was in:

"How much?"

I wondered how much the traffic would bear.

"Twenty quid, sir," I ventured. He went up in the air.

"Impossible! I'll give you ten."

I O.K.'d that before the words were out of his mouth. Fifty dollars is a whole lot of money to a soldier. He gave it to me with a pass for Scotland—where I had relatives—to which I had long been entitled but which had been useless to me as long as I had no money.

I quickly gathered my egos together and we packed into the canteen to celebrate the occasion fittingly in the only fashion a good soldier knows, in army beer so thick and strong that the hops floated on the tops of the mess tins. While searching for the bottom of one of these I heard the orderly shouting: Corporal Edwards, Cor-



CUTTING UNDER DIFFICULTIES
Cutting on wet land at Loo, Alberta, in 1916.

poral Edwards." The other men gathered round the corner while I scrunched down so that the orderly passed on and out still shouting my name.

I fled to the tent and was hastily getting my things together when a corporal came hot-foot saying that the officer wanted me at once. I went in, gave him my very best regimental salute and stood at attention.

"I find that you are not on the strength, corporal, and are not entitled to any money, so I'll trouble you to return that money I gave you."

"I'm sorry, sir," I said sadly, "but it's gone."

"Gone? How?"

"Debits, sir," I said firmly. "My mates have been keeping me going."

"Well, you must get it back from them at once and return it to me. It's most irregular. Push on now and see that you're back here in an hour's time with that money before those fellows spent it all in the canteen."

"Very good, sir." I gave him a smirking good Augen Rechts to cheer him up against the time he should discover I was well on my way to Scotland.

I did not return until I received notice that my regimental bones had been officially exhumed, after which I had no difficulty in getting my back pay and three months' furlough for Canada.

The fuel controller has issued a statement saying that any person who fails to unload a coal car promptly is an enemy of this country. The matter has been taken up with Chairman Drayton of the railway commission and an order has been issued increasing the demurrage on coal cars. Importers will have two free days for delivery. The third day the demurrage will be \$1.00 and this increased by \$1.00 per day until the demurrage is \$5.00 per day.

"It is now vital for the United Kingdom and the Allies in Europe to obtain from Canada foodstuffs in far larger quantities than under peace conditions," says Lord Rhondda.