

LIVING UNDER WAR CONDITIONS: 9000 MEN



The "Cooker" or Field Kitchen makes the life of the soldier much easier—it trails along at the end of the column, cooking as it goes. When the column halts, dinner is ready.



Ambulances were necessary, although the casualties were few—mostly "broken feet" from hard marching. As each regiment approached a town, the friends (if any) of the men came out to meet them. These are some of the 37th on the edge of Hamilton.

Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!

The Canadian Army of 9,000 Men War-Marching from Niagara to Toronto

FOR two weeks beginning on Monday, Oct. 25th, the country between Niagara Camp and Toronto has been a spectacle the like of which has never been known in modern Canada. In that period 9,000 men with all the impedimenta and most of the accoutrements of modern war moved from the old camp to the new. Headed by the advance guard of the 37th, followed by that battalion's band, commanding officer and the main body of the regiment, with a flying corps of cycle scouts hovering anywhere in front or rear of the advance guard, the greatest army that ever trailed through any part of Canada turned the Niagara Peninsula and the mainland to the north-east into a scene of almost actual war. Any airman flying over the trail of that army and not knowing what it was, might have imagined the scene was in the Champagne country in France—except for the absence of artillery action and the storming of trenches.

More than a century ago small British armies marched through the bush in Ontario, and the border war of 1812 saw redcoat troops trailing in the name of the King from interior to frontier. But no army ever went a hundred-mile trail in this country equal in size or fighting capacity of this khaki-clad force headed by the 37th Battalion en route from Niagara to Toronto. The men did not march keeping time to the music of bands as the great German army marched through Belgium more than a year ago. They walked, carrying their rifles in any way they chose, hitting the road and trailing through the fruitlands, not with the precise regimental click of the drill-ground, but with the steady, serious advance of a body of trained warriors bent on getting from point to point with the greatest possible ease.

The entire period of road work performed by any one part of the troops covered about five days. The 37th struck camp Monday morning, Oct. 25th. By noon they were under way. The 37th reached High Park in the west end of Toronto some time before noon on Saturday. They had arrived ahead of schedule. The newspaper programme allowed for the formal reception by the Mayor of Toronto at 1.30. Thousands of people turned out to witness the

arrival. Thousands were fooled. The 37th sent word from High Park to the Mayor that they had formally invaded Toronto. The Mayor received them at one o'clock. The 37th were in camp at Exhibition Park before many people knew they had arrived at all.

The men were in first-class condition. Disablements were few. The ambulance had a few cases of broken feet and other trifling ailments. But the 9,000 men, bag and baggage, camp paraphernalia and all, stood the trek as successfully as trained athletes.

British Faith Unshaken

IN a few trenchant descriptive paragraphs Sir John French condenses the great story of the British advance which commenced on September 25th and gave Germany a sample of what she may expect in future—at any time.

September 30.

We have now reached a definite stage in the great battle, which commenced on the 25th last.

Our Allies in the south have pierced the enemy's last line of entrenchments and effected large captures of prisoners and guns.

The 10th French army, on our immediate right, has been heavily opposed, but has brilliantly succeeded in securing the important position known as the Vimy Ridge.

The operations of the British forces have been most successful, and have had great and important results.

On the morning of the 25th inst. the First and Fourth Corps attacked and carried the enemy's first and most powerful line of entrenchments, extending from our extreme right flank at Grenay to a point north of the Hohenzollern Redoubt—a distance of 6,500 yards.

This position was exceptionally strong, consisting of a double line, which included some large redoubts and a network of trenches and bomb-proof shelters. Dugouts were constructed at short intervals all along the line, some of them being large caves 30 feet below the ground.

The Eleventh Corps, in general reserve, and the Third Cavalry Division were subsequently thrown into the fight, and finally the 28th Division.

After the vicissitudes attendant upon every great fight, the enemy's second line posts were taken, the commanding position known as Hill 70, an advance

of Loos, was finally captured, and a strong line was established and consolidated in close proximity to the German third and last line.

The main operations south of the La Bassee Canal were much facilitated and assisted by the subsidiary attacks delivered by the Third and Indian Corps and the troops of the Second Army.

Great help was also rendered by the operations of the Fifth Corps east of Ypres, during which some important captures were made.

We are also much indebted to Vice-Admiral Bacon and our naval comrades for the valuable co-operation of the fleet.

Our captures have amounted to over 3,000 prisoners and some 25 guns, besides many machine guns and a quantity of war material.

The enemy has suffered heavy losses, particularly in the many counter-attacks, by which he has vainly endeavoured to wrest back the captured positions, but which have all been gallantly repulsed by our troops.

I desire to express to the army under my command my deep appreciation of the splendid work they have accomplished, and my heartfelt thanks for the brilliant leadership displayed by General Sir Douglas Haig, and the corps and divisional commanders who acted under his orders in the main attack.

In the same spirit of admiration and gratitude I wish particularly to comment upon the magnificent spirit, indomitable courage, and dogged tenacity displayed by the troops.

Old Army, New Army, and Territorials have vied with one another in the heroic conduct displayed throughout the battle by officers, non-commissioned officers, and men.

I feel the utmost confidence and assurance that the same glorious spirit which has been so marked a feature throughout the first phase of this great battle will continue until our efforts are crowned by final and complete victory.

(Signed).

J. D. P. FRENCH,

Field-Marshal, Commanding-in-Chief British Army in the Field.

LETTERS FROM THE FRONT.

Last week, we published the first of a series of letters from Mr. Britton B. Cooke, a well-known Canadian correspondent, who has been spending some weeks in England and France. Other letters will appear in future issues of the Canadian Courier. He has had special opportunities of seeing our troops in the firing line, and his impressions will be accurate as well as vivid and illuminating.