

Tourists Visit Ruins of Rheims Cathedral

Permit Must be Obtained Before Trip Can be Made— Women Visit Front Line Trenches

(From an article by Sterling Hellig in Washington Star)

I was with a party at the Rheims front. Suddenly there began an awful clatter of artillery. "Let's go over to the batteries—just over there," exclaimed the boy from Barcelona. (Capt. Delvert looked troubled. "Wh-h-h! (noise like an express train entering a depot.) Crash. A full-sized German shell exploded between us and those batteries. "This way, if you please, gentlemen," said Capt. Talmon.

In ten minutes the automobiles landed us at some third-line trenches on the other side of Rheims. Machine guns commanded the highway. The trenches ran through suburban gardens. "We saw a lot of still life. "This way, gentlemen," remarked the Captain. "And amid a perfectly good bombardment, the autos landed us at the Pommerie champagne establishment. No crash of artillery reached those deep cellars. The captain made us inspect them thoroughly.

"I would not mind if you newspaper men should be killed," he whispered, confidentially, "but I'm responsible for this Dutch merchant, and the president of the Chamber of Commerce of Geneva, and that boy eating sandwiches is the son of the mayor of Barcelona. What would they think if anything happened to him?"

A Modern Visit. Such is a modern visit to the Rheims front, and it will probably be the same at Soissons tomorrow. Along with four newspaper correspondents, there were three chamber of commerce dignitaries, one New York clubman, one Russian prince, one partner in an American chain works, one transatlantic shipping man and the boy from Barcelona.

For parties of women, the French foreign office maintains a woman guide, who posts them beforehand on heavy boots, stockings, rubbers, warps and raincoats. All go over the same historic road. None may take the direct trains for Rheims. To buy a ticket, you must show your permit. The train is long and crowded, but the first-class cars are luxurious, and, returning at night, we had a better and gayer dinner, in a smarter restaurant car, better warmed and lighted, than on the Monte Carlo express.

Epernay! Two hours and a half from Paris. The train goes on to Nancy. The first sight was a bunch of African infantry—big, heavy fellows, as black as ink—in warm, new uniforms, horse-playing and crude champagne, which does not bubble, until one admires the feeding of the front. Is it the front?

The lunch goes leisurely. The French officers discuss Romanesque and Gothic stained glass, Joan of Arc, plain chant and gastronomy. Visitors anxious for the trenches, listen and hold their patience. Don't disturb the officers in their one good hour of leisure!

Do you think so? You are all wrong. There is deep diplomacy, and the captains who appear so debonnaire are really heart strained for their party of tourists, watching the clock hurriedly and waiting for a message. Are the trenches safe this afternoon? Aye, there's the question!

The proof is that on a quiet afternoon a party of women got started promptly after three-quarters of an hour at lunch, spent three hours romping in the first-line trenches, talked to poilus, touched machine guns and saw an aeroplane battle. And I know a party of men who were delayed, tempted with hot tartlets—not on the bill of fare—coffee, liquors, cigars and charmed with first-class conversation, so that they never saw the first-line trenches. They missed the big gun batteries when they were getting laid, and they wound up the remainder of the afternoon, till dusk, in the cellars of the champagne establishment.

Installation of Officers

The annual installation of officers of the Grand Council, number 147, Canadian Order of Chosen Friends, took place on Tuesday night. Grand Recorder W. P. Montague of Hamilton, was present and confirmed the consolidation of the two councils, numbers 498 and 147, under the name and number, Brantford Council, No. 147. He appointed Friend S. P. Pitcher to act as Grand Marshall, and installed the following officers for 1917: Past Councilors, Friends Hewitson and Sherry; Chief Councillor, Friend Mrs. E. Miller, Vice Chief Councillor, Friend Stephen Miller; Recorder, Friend H. B. Beckett; Treasurer, Friend Mrs. R. Colmer; Proleat, Friend Mrs. A. Raines; Warden, Mrs. Graban; Marshal, Friend William Egelston; Sentry, Friend Mrs. Lamb; Guard, Friend T. Powell; Trustees, one year, S. P. Pitcher; two years, J. Mincer.

Following the installation of officers a short address was given by Friend W. F. Montague, who in special emphasis on the good condition in which the finances of the Order were in at the present time and also to the number of members of the society now in khaki, these numbering over one thousand. Dainty refreshments were served by the ladies at the conclusion of Mr. Montague's address.

Children of the various local orphanages at Vancouver were given a theatre party under the direction of Mrs. Philip Brooks.

The Board of Trade at Mission City has opposed the idea of Chinese labor as proposed by the Fruit Growers' Association.

In B. C. at the Iron Mask near Kamloops, 16,500 feet of work has been done. The three compartment shaft is 780 feet deep.

The hundred and sixtieth lunch and meeting of the Victoria Rotary Club took place at the Empress Hotel at Victoria, B. C.

More than 3,000 Victorians personally extended New Year's greetings to Premier Brewster and the members of his cabinet.

the cathedral. It cannot be denied. Only the cathedral quarter has been aimed at. Inside Rheims cathedral! The roof and walls are riddled with holes. Fire shells have burned everything that could burn and cracked the carved stone. There were heavy lumber repair scaffolds, and this was known—otherwise why send fire shells to a stone cathedral?

Thousands of Shells. More than 1,500 shells have entered the cathedral. Nearly 13,000 have fallen round about it. Great breaches are here and there. Even the floor is torn up. The bombardment of the cathedral has never ceased. The very new and the old begin again—not to destroy it utterly, but piecemeal; here a corner nipped off, there a wall weakened, here a flying buttress sent flying, there a new smash in the stained glass windows. It is like a child nibbling around the edge of a cake. You know what finally happens to the cake. The child knows, too, and tries to make it last. Each shot into Rheims cathedral hits the heart of France.

"Only the cathedral quarter," we mutter. "Pardon," says Capt. Talmon, cheerfully, "there is another. If you please, gentlemen we will take the automobiles."

They take us to the ruins of the Hotel Dieu. It is the illustrious old royal hospital of Rheims, completely gutted by the fire. The story of Rheims. Old kings built it, grandiose and beautiful, as a memorial to adjoin the antique church of St. Remi, which is a precious pre-Gothic basilica, landmark of Christianity, peters of rare architect in whose foundations at least, Clovis was baptized.

The Three Glories. In August 1916 the Germans began cutting another "swath" through Rheims, this time a straight line, more and aft, with the Church of St. Remi. I tell what I have seen. So far the Hotel Dieu, adjoining, built into it, has taken all the shells. But the swaths of bombardment are the same. They go in straight lines, unmistakable, to the three historical and architectural glories of Rheims—the cathedral, St. Remi and the Hotel Dieu.

On which we go to the Hotel du Nord for lunch. The fish was fresher than in Paris, coming direct in refrigerator cars from the sea. The roast ducks were delicious, with the hot tartlets, which does not bubble, until one admires the feeding of the front. Is it the front?

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Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA



HEROINE OF SWITCHBOARD. Miss Tessie McNamara, telephone operator at the plant of the Canadian Car and Foundry Co., at Kingsland, N.J., who warned the employees of all departments of the fire, staying to the very last at her post at great personal risk.

NEWS OF NORFOLK

St. Paul's Church, Simcoe, Holds Annual Meeting; Other News

Change of address. News items or requests for insertion of names on subscription list, should be sent to Courier Agency, Box 311, Simcoe, or phone 356-3. The Courier is delivered for 25 cents a month, strictly in advance, or may be obtained at Jackson's Drug Store at 2 cents a copy.

Simcoe, Jan. 18.—(From our own correspondent).—A summary of the vital statistics of the town for the year 1916 by quarters shows some irregularities. The death rate was very low.

Births. Quarters: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th T1 Male 15 6 14 15 50 Female 7 21 16 10 51 Marriages 23 13 16 75

Deaths. Male 18 9 4 9 40 Female 7 3 5 7 22 Totals—Births, 104; marriages, 75; deaths 62.

Dr. Wm. Hart received to-day a letter from his son, Lt. Dr. A. C. Hart, now at Saloniki. The letter was dated Dec. 16th, and the young soldier reports all well. Jailor Oliver Robertson, received a wire yesterday advising him of the death of his brother, Peter R. Robertson, at Barrow Bay. Deceased was born and raised in Windham Township and was connected with the Vanessa Lumber Company. He went to Fort Garry in 1871, and found five hundred of General Wolsey's soldiers still there. Later he settled in the Bruce Peninsula, where he spent the remainder of his days, farming. He leaves a wife and two grown up sons. Mr. Robertson was 69 years of age.

Annual Meeting at St. Pauls. Partly perhaps on account of cold weather and partly through insufficient notice having been given, there was a very small turnout at the annual meeting of the congregation of St. Pauls church, held last evening. There were, however, some good reports given.

The session's report gave the membership as 359, and the treasurer's books showed that only 96 of these were contributors. During the year 28 joined the church, of whom 12 were from the Sabbath school. There were 10 withdrawals and four deaths.

The treasurer's statement showed receipts somewhat more than \$230 in advance of expenditures. The Missionary Society more than doubled the last year's business, showing net receipts of \$337.92. In fact, in all departments, the finances were well maintained. The new managers are Andrew McKnight, D. Bauslaugh, A. B. Jackson and W. L. Innes.

Simcoe Fowl at Detroit. Mr. Harry Johnston has returned from Detroit with a string of prizes for his wyandottes. A glance at his winnings at Guelph shows that he followed there just as well at Detroit. There was some good stuff at Detroit, Mr. J. says, among others the prize hen of Chicago, marked 4th. Here are Mr. Johnston's winnings: At Guelph: Cock, 1st, 5th, 10th; hen, 2nd, 6th, 10th and 12th; cockerel, 5th, 11th; pullet, 2nd, 4th and 7th. At Detroit: Cock 2, 4, 5, 6, 7; hen, 2, 3, 6; cockerel 1, 2, 8; pullet 3, 5; old hen, 2, 3; young hen, 1, 4.

Mr. Johnston will be barred from the Norfolk County show by consent.

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MARKETS

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never heard from him from that day to this. There's more of that sort of thing going on than you would believe. If you can draw the attention of a certain class of young men to it, you will help many a girl, Miss Libby."

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Mr. Harvey M. Streight has been appointed manager of the New Westminster branch of the Brackman-Ker Milling Co. at Victoria.

The Tonaph-Belmont Company have been spending money profusely on developing and surface equipment on the Surf Inlet, B. C. Harbor improvement plans are being discussed by the Dominion government officials and the business representatives of Vancouver.

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