

The Weekly Monitor

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BRIDGETOWN, ANNAPOLIS COUNTY, NOVA SCOTIA, NOVEMBER 3, 1915

NO 30

FROM THE TRENCHES IN BELGIUM

Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Farnsworth of Phinney's Cove Received the Following Letter From Their Son Fred

Belgium,
Sept. 30, 1915.

Dear Father and Mother:—

We have now come to a more interesting part in the program of our soldiering, having finished with the rather monotonous routine of training camp life in England and taken up our new work here in Belgium. You will probably get a fairly good glimpse of the country in which we are now, by imagining our country as this. Take our Annapolis Valley as a basis, eliminate the mountains from both sides and the tableland from the south, and we have a low, flat land running from the sea on the north and west away off southward and eastward. Just at the sea great sand dunes are thrown up by the wind, like rolling, irregular hills, and the sea beach is of sand, too, and reaches away off on either side as far as the eye can see, and far out when the tide ebbs. Instead of the winding muddy river, a narrow, clear canal runs away inland from the sea, while a few miles off to the eastward the great battle lines stretch from the sea away off to the southward. Divide and subdivide our Valley farms and pasture lands into much smaller farms, remove the fences from either side and in their stead tall ash and elm trees from the boundaries and skirt the roads on either side over this whole level country. The houses and barns are smaller than our own and all are built of grey stone or brick, low walled with sloping roofs of reddish brown tile. All are plain in structure, moss grown and old. The roads are narrow, built of cobble stones, and go bending and turning through villages and country alike, seemingly as fancy moved the builders. As we travel easterly along one of these roads toward the firing line, we see furrowing through fields and around villages at short intervals, strongly built, lines of trenches and dug-outs, and if this is the first time we have come this way, even though it be in the sunshine of a mild autumn afternoon, we are impressed with the imminence of war, for these are no practice trenches, but have been built to protect the defenders of this remnant of Belgium against a possible further advance by the Germans. Nor are these companies and battalions of passing soldiers on a practice route march; instead they are coming back from the first line trenches for a short rest, muddy and dirty, browned and hardened by a year's campaigning. Looking up we see stationed in the air and several miles apart an irregular line of observation

balloons running parallel to the lines of trenches. Away to the east is another line, but these are different in shape and color and we know they belong to the enemy. These sentinels watch constantly from dawn till dark very day.

As we are an engineering corps you will know that we do not under ordinary circumstances, take our place in the firing line, but we live here just behind it, doing our allotted work in many places. To-night, under cover of darkness, we are building gun emplacements right up in the first line where the bullets whistle over our heads, and shells screaming through the air burst, sometimes so near that fragments fall at our feet, but they usually land farther away and we anticipate little danger from them. In the day time we usually work away back where warfare is farther removed from us except when the Huns take a notion to remind the people of this particular town near which we are billeted that they are still to be reckoned with. The other evening just as we had finished supper, we heard the weird screech and explosion of an enemy shell near us. Running over to see the fun, another came screeching along and landed almost in the same place, throwing dirt all over us as we were digging fragments out of the first hole. These did little damage except that when they exploded, two crater-like holes appeared in the black earth. Groups of soldiers quickly formed, and as each shell landed, laughed and jeered at the Kaiser's fruitless attempts to destroy. Just in front of a house close by the canal at which the fire was apparently directed, stood a Belgian field kitchen and a group of soldiers. The third shell landed fair amongst them, I saw them during the few seconds before the ambulances came. Some were literally blown to pieces and fragments of their bodies scattered over the cobblestone pavement. But I shall not further describe the scene, it was too ghastly and weird, here in the usual quiet of a small town where no battle was being fought. Another shell came, and another, following each other at intervals of several minutes as if to give us hope that each was the last. Women and children carrying small bundles of blankets could be seen hurrying away through the fields to sleep elsewhere. But apart from this there was no unusual stir and no commotion. Big motor trucks, carrying war supplies up to the front, went chugging along, just over in our material yard, switch engines went on

with their work, and barges piled up and down the canal without stop, for these are all manned by soldiers and the Belgian soldier cares not for these occurrences, they are but episodes in his daily hazardous life and give him a greater longing for revenge rather than daunt his invincible spirit. Later that night we saw them marching by, going up to the trenches, thousands of these soldiers clad in their new khaki, tramping along through the mud and rain and storm, singing more lustily than ever their favourite marching songs of "La Marseilles" and "Tipperary."

We are given quite another sort of interesting experience here too, for no clear day passes that we do not see aeroplanes being shelled. You hear the "bang" of a bursting shell off to the east. Looking up away over the trenches and high in the air, you see smoke puffs that are but spots as the shells burst, but gradually roll out and finally merge into the clouds. Sailing through these is the great "bird." The intrepid airman seemingly unconscious of the shells that burst above, below and all around them, sometimes perilously near, glide on through them taking their observations and changing their course now and then to puzzle the gunners. Wonderfully cool men are these, fearless and bold, and rendering an inestimable service. Only yesterday I saw a fight in the air. A German biplane, at a fairly high altitude, was coming towards our lines. Our anti-aircraft guns were making it rather hot for him and we were enjoying the fun, when suddenly the shelling stopped and seemingly from out of space shot a British fighting monoplane. The big German turned back but it was then too late. The little fighter was evidently anxious to mix it, and, being much the faster, went right up to close quarters; then began a series of evolutions that were thrilling to see. We could hear the rattling of his machine guns as he spiraled and darted around the big machine, manoeuvring for better position. All this time (about two minutes) the big German had been "beating it" towards his own lines when he suddenly tilted and planned downwards. The machine guns had found their mark. The little British fighter circled around as if to show his prowess, then sailed back over our heads and away off to the east out of sight. We heard later that the enemy machine was knocked to pieces by French "75" while attempting to land.

You already know of the great battle that was fought here recently. I think I shall always remember that night. I shall tell you of it. We are in our billets away behind the first line and behind most of the big guns near us. But a salient runs into France to the south

(Continued on page 8)

THE EUROPEAN WAR

French Repulse Germans With Heavy Losses

LONDON, Oct. 31.—German troops in important masses made a thoroughly organized attack last night along a front of nearly five miles in the Champagne district, and were subjected to a serious check, with heavy losses, the French War Office announced today. It is asserted that the assaulting forces were hurled back along the entire front of the attack, the front extending from the vicinity of Hill No. 195 to the position of "La Courtine," except that they succeeded in reaching the summit of Butte de Tahure.

Large numbers of dead bodies were left by the Germans upon the battlefield. The infantry engaged in the assault were chiefly troops recently transferred from the Russian front, according to the French official statement, which reads as follows:

"The enemy bombardment reported last night in the Champagne developed with great violence on a front of about eight kilometres (about five miles), bounded by the woods on the side of Hill No. 195, Butte de Tahure, the village of Tahure, and the trench to the south, as far as including the woods of 'La Courtine.' This preparation was followed along the entire front by a thoroughly organized attack by important masses of infantry, formed in the major part from troops recently brought up from the Russian front.

Reported Russian Troops Have Landed in Bulgaria

LONDON, November 2.—A despatch to the Times from Bucharest says: "It is reported in naval quarters here that Russian troops were landed at Varna, in Bulgaria, on the Black Sea, Friday.

Germans Mowed Down in Battle of Loos

LONDON, November 1.—Field Marshal Sir John French, reporting from the front, says: "On October 26 the enemy heavily bombarded the area east of Ypres. With this exception, owing to the wet and misty weather, the artillery on both sides during the last four days has been less active. Minig activity continues on both sides.

"The returns of casualties for seven German battalions which took part in the Loos fighting, as published, show that the losses averaged 80 per cent. of the strength of these battalions."

WAR BRIEFS

"What's in a name?" finds a fitting answer in the case of the McAvitys, of St. John's, N. B., four of whom have answered the call of King and country. In addition to the four fighting Maes, there have been thirty-five employees of the firm of T. McAvity & Sons, who have already enlisted for overseas service. The McAvitys are: Lieut. Col. James T., commanding the 26th Battalion; T. McAvity, 1st Canadian Infantry Brigade; Ronald A., Captain and Quartermaster 12th Battalion; and Percy D., Lieutenant 26th Battalion.

—Journal of Commerce

At one of the Sheffield munition factories King George fired from the experimental range an armor piercing shell of four and a quarter inches calibre against hard faced iron. The shell pierced the armor and was recovered intact. Advances from Constantinople report that the Germans are now breaking up all remaining Turkish warships and using the metal for the manufacture of shells and cartridges.

The Germans tried to recruit an Irish brigade from Irish prisoners. Some recently released said, "Of course they never had the ghost of a chance of getting an Irish brigade from us."

King Victor Emmanuel of Italy had a narrow escape from death or serious injury, of late, while near the fighting line. His horse was wounded by splinters from shrapnel, but he was unhurt.

Persons in Alsace have been tried by court martial for anti-German expressions. One man who cried "Vive la France" was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment.

The prediction of a French naturalist, based on the conduct of animals, and the early fall of snow on the Alps, that the coming winter will be exceptionally hard, has aroused much interest in view of a probable winter campaign.

President Falconer states that 1200 graduates and under graduates of the University of Toronto are with the colors.

400 public school teachers of Simcoe County, Ont., resolved to give one day's pay totalling \$1000.00 for a field ambulance or machine gun.

The Germans have used a new kind of gas in Champagne. It produces unconsciousness for a time and then convulsions like epileptic fits.

Two days campaign in Sault Ste. Marie and Steelton brought \$70,000 for the Canadian Patriotic and Red Cross Funds.

600 invalided Canadian soldiers have been provided for in convalescent homes by the Hospitals Commission.

Rudyard Kipling's only son, a delicate youth of 18 years is either killed or a prisoner in Germany. He insisted on doing his bit.

Englishmen anticipating leaving England to avoid recruiting will not be permitted to do so.

Six members of the British Parliament have been killed in action during the war, the latest being a brother of the Marquis of Bute.

More than 5000 iron crosses of the first class have been conferred on German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish officers for military exploits, and the officers of the Zeppelins which have raided England. Iron crosses of the second order have also been conferred on the crews of the Zeppelins.

The Austrian Minister of War is reported to have confiscated the entire supply of all kinds of rubber tires, new or old. If not delivered within 24 hours, whether in use or not, the penalty is a year's imprisonment.

The Bulgarian Consul General in England sent the following telegram to the Bulgarian Premier. "If the reported alliance of Bulgaria with our eternal enemies and persecutors (the Turks) and against our liberators (England) is true, I protest and tender my resignation as Consul General."

30,000 recruits must be raised weekly to maintain the efficiency of the British armies, and secure such a victory as will free the world from the fear of the military tyranny which Germany would impose upon it. So say the British authorities.

Germans taken prisoners by the Russians admit that the German troops are worn out. Their night raids are generally carried on under the influence of alcohol, and many prisoners are taken in a drunken sleep.

It may be said that during the past month, the Germans are on the defensive from the Belgium coast to the Swiss border, and the initiative has passed to the Allies.

Two months ago, the British Government, through its Munition Department controlled 535 plants, one month ago it controlled 715, now it controls 1000.

German Officers are drilling Turkish recruits in Jerusalem, with a view, it would appear, to the conquest of Egypt for Germany. But, the prospect of getting Egypt is darker than ever.

HYMENEAL

McCULLOUGH—GESNER

On Wednesday morning last, in St. Mary's Church, Belleisle, a wedding of unusual interest was solemnized, the principals being Mr. Harry J. McCullough of Keswick Ridge, New Brunswick, and Mary Alice, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. N. Gesner of Belleisle. The officiating clergyman being the Rev. E. Underwood, Rector of the Parish. A large congregation evinced the popularity of the bride and the esteem in which she is held. The service which commenced at 9.30 began with the singing of Frances Gwney's beautiful hymn "O Perfect Love," to Sir J. Barnaby's tune of the same title. During the singing the groom, supported by Mr. Chas. Gesner, took his position at the chancel steps, and the bride entered the church leaning on her father's arm and attended by her cousin, Miss Sadie Gesner. She wore a travelling suit of navy blue cloth, tailor-made, and picture hat to match, trimmed with white marabou feathers, and carried an exquisite bouquet of chrysanthemums and asparagus fern.

The service proceeded in the usual way until the end, when during the signing of the register, the choir sang the Rev. John Ellerton's hymn, "O Father All Creating." This concluded the bridal party left the church to the strains of the wedding march played by Mrs. Lyle, who presided at the organ throughout the service. Immediately after the ceremony a dainty "breakfast" was served at the bride's home to relatives and immediate friends, after which the newly wedded couple left by auto for Bridgetown, thence to their future home in New Brunswick, followed by the good wishes of a host of friends.

JODRIE—KILPATRICK

The home of Mrs. and Mrs. James Kilpatrick of Port George was the scene of a very happy occasion on the evening of October 26th, 1915, when their eldest daughter Gertrude Laventa was united by the holy bonds of matrimony to Samuel Primrose Jodrie, son of David Jodrie of Paradise, N. S. Promptly at seven o'clock, as the strains of the bridal chorus from Lohengrin sounded, beautifully rendered by Miss Elizabeth Harvey, the groom attended by the bride's cousin, Mr. Israel Kilpatrick, entered the parlor and took their places beneath an arch of potted plants, evergreen and autumn leaves, which had been erected by the bride's friends. Then followed the bride, attended by her friend Miss Martha MacMurtry. The officiating clergyman was Rev. S. J. Boyce.

The bride looked charming in a dress of white veil and net, with bridal veil, carrying a shower bouquet of asparagus fern and Star of Bethlehem. The bridesmaid's dress was of sky-blue mull with shadow lace, gold beading and rose trimming.

After the ceremony and hearty congratulations a bountiful tea was served in the dining room. Then the bride's cake was cut and passed by the bride.

Mr. Harry Hinds of Mt. Rose provided music for the evening.

The gifts consisted of linen, china, silver and money. The bride and groom will reside at Port George.

—ONE PRESENT.

Editor Monitor:—

Dear Sir:—Kindly permit me, on behalf of the local recruiting committee, to again ask the friends of the men who, from Bridgetown and a radius of three miles, have at any time enlisted for service "Over-seas," to please send their address as full as possible—rank, name, regimental number, company, squadron, battery or other unit, battalion, brigade, first or second Canadian Contingent.

Truly yours,

ERNEST UNDERWOOD,

Secretary.

The Monitor from this date until January 1, 1917, for \$1.00, or \$1.50 to the United States.

FIELD CROPS COMPETITION

The Department of Agriculture for the Province of Nova Scotia at Truro, furnishes us with the following score made in the Field Crops Competition in Annapolis County.

Wheat Competition, 1915

V. B. Leonard, Central Clarence	94
Arthur Phinney, Bridgetown	88
T. E. Smith, Central Clarence	87½
E. J. Shaffner, Lawrencetown	87
Chas. Foster, Clarence	83½
E. J. Elliott, Clarence	83½

Oat Competition, 1915

E. J. Elliott, Clarence	92
L. W. Elliott, Clarence	90½
V. B. Leonard, Central Clarence	90
Arthur Phinney, Bridgetown	89
T. E. Smith, Central Clarence	87½

Judge: A. E. Humphrey.

Owing to the fact that it takes some time to get matters adjusted, and that the prize money comes through the Federal and Local Departments of Agriculture, there has been some delay in announcing the awards. We are requested by the local department to state that prize winners will receive their money at an early date. Also that individual scores can be had on application to the Department of Agriculture, and these reports will appear in the report of the Secretary for Agriculture.

AUTUMN LEAF REBEKAH LODGE CELEBRATED ITS NINTH ANNIVERSARY

About seventy-five members and invited guests gathered on Monday evening, November 1st, to celebrate the ninth anniversary of Autumn Leaf Rebekah Lodge No. 41, I. O. O. F.

The Hall was very artistically decorated with streamers and banners and Jack O'Lanterns and "Pumpkin Grinders" grinned welcome as befitting Halloween.

The evening was spent in a very pleasant and informal manner with games and music, after which refreshments were served. The next on the program was the presentation to the Lodge of a birthday cake donated by the Financial Secretary, Miss Gertrude Hartnett, beautifully trimmed with candles and cards bearing the names of the leading members, who were instrumental in instituting the Lodge. As each name was read by Mayor Longmire, assisted by the Noble Grand, Mrs. F. E. Bath, the ladies came forward and lit a candle.

"Tipperary" and the "National Anthem" brought to a close another one of the pleasant evenings for which Autumn Leaf Lodge has always been noted, and the wish was expressed that many more such birthdays may be celebrated.

THE BLUE CROSS FUND

To Help Horses in War Time

While in England this summer Mrs. Ronald Whiteway was appointed by "Our Dumb Friends' League" Secretary and Treasurer for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick of the Blue Cross Fund. A recent letter received by Mrs. Whiteway from the officials of the League reads as follows:

"On behalf of our horses at the front I am appealing to the public for donations in order to keep up the supply for the base hospitals. The responsibility of maintaining a number of hospitals for the duration of the war is a serious one. French, English and Canadian horses are under treatment. As Nova Scotia and New Brunswick have contributed so generously to other funds, I feel we can not expect large contributions and that it would be better to start a 'quarter' fund, but of course this need not prevent people giving more if they can afford it."

Collectors will call in, Bridgetown week beginning Nov. 8th. Mrs. Whiteway will acknowledge with gratitude all donations, large or small, through the Monitor.

To widen a street in Boston, the stone-built Pelham Hotel, 96 feet high and weighing 10,000 tons, was moved a distance of 14 feet in 70 hours.

I WANT CASH

Men's All Wool Working Pants, sizes 34 to 46

White and Grey Shaker Blankets

Shaker Flannels 6 cents, up to the best English

36 inch Cotton Cashmere, 11 cents

Boys' Sweaters, assorted colors

Boys' Fleece-Lined Shirts and Drawers

Men's Fleece-Lined Shirts and Drawers

Little "Darling Hose" in black, tan, cream sky, pink and cardinal

Extra Heavy Cashmere Hose

Stockingettes all sizes, two qualities

Ladies' Fleece Lined Hose

Canvas Gloves 10c, Pigskin 47c

A Great Bargain in Men's Braces

Pillow Cases, 12½ cents each

Pillow Cottons and Sheetings

Table Damasks, 25 cents up

Table Napkins, Special Bargains

Curtain Materials

White Quilts and Towels

The Greatest Good to the Greatest Number

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