

The Heather

185th Overseas Battalion C. E. F.

"Seol No Fear Feareal"

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NO. 1

The 185th Encampment

Broughton, the deserted coal mining town of Cape Breton, has been transformed, almost in a night, to a busy and one of the finest military centres in eastern Canada. The 185th "Overseas" Battalion, Cape Breton Highlanders, has taken possession of the plant and property of the Cape Breton Coal, Iron and Railway Company, Limited, comprising one of the best laid out towns in America.

Although the actual building in existence at Broughton are not numerous, from a municipal standpoint, they are sufficient for the use of the Highlanders and the conveniences are more than ordinary.

Broughton was laid out by the Land Company, of that name, with mathematical precision and the military encampment, comprising all the buildings is compactly situated within a quarter circle and at a radius of a quarter mile from the company's mines and power house. Main street, nearly ninety feet wide and well gravelled and graded runs through the centre of the camp. The side street, and avenues are also in fine condition and the elevation of the town affords splendid drainage for surface water.

The town is situated about 17 miles from the coast and is accessible either by a branch line running into the town from the main line of railway, making transport conditions ideal.

The plant now in use by the 185th Battalion comprises the branch railway, the power plant, water system, general office buildings, two fine hotels and forty-three cottages. The sanitary arrangements have been installed according to the military system.

The general offices, where headquarters have been established, is a fine building on the shores of Loon Lake. It is two storeys high and splendidly finished throughout, steam-heated and electric lighted. The ground floor is used by the headquarters staff, Officer Commanding, second in command, Junior Major, Medical Officer, Paymaster, and Battalion Sgt. Major. The second floor is in use as the officers mess and sleeping quarters for the headquarters clerical staff.

The Broughton Arms, one of the finest hotels in Canada, is now equipped for several purposes. The building is three and one half storeys high, with a finished basement, and it is entirely in use for the purposes of the battalion. In the basement are mess rooms for half the men in the battalion and will be used by "A" and "B" companies for that purpose. The first floor is taken up with recreation rooms and kitchens. The Y. M. C. A. and regimental post office will be established here for the present. On the second floor are the officers' quarters and the rooms are nicely appointed. There are quarters on this floor for all the

officers of the battalion. The third floor has been fitted up as a hospital, with accommodation for thirty beds. The general lay out and the sanitary and hygienic conveniences make it ideal for the purpose. There are quarters, in the half storey above for the hospital staff.

The non-commissioned officers and men of the battalion are quartered in the Crown Hotel, the official residences and the miners cottages. Single and double, the latter accommodate about one thousand men. At present they are occupied by "A" Co. from Inverness, "B" company from Glace Bay and the mining district, and "C" Co. from Sydney Mines. The Sydney and district men, comprising "D" company are quartered in the Crown Hotel and the official cottages.

The sanitary arrangements are as perfect as it has been possible to make them and the usual military provisions have been made for the separate quarters. For the present the entire battalion will wash up at the Crown Hotel where the necessary plumbing has been installed in the basement. In addition to the ablution table, which runs the entire length of the building, twenty-four hot and cold water

comfort and convenience of the men.

The quartermaster's stores have been established in the centre of the town and the supplies to the various sections of the battalion and to the men are being issued as fast as possible. Quartermaster Lt. Malone and his staff have been the hardest worked lot of men in the encampment since the marching in commenced. They have worked night and day and it is expected that the end of next week will see the greater bulk of their work accomplished. A canteen has also been established near the quarters for the benefit of the men.

All the buildings are well heated and lighted with electricity. Special train arrangements on the Battalions railway, to connect with the S. & L. trains have been made and next week will see the installation of a telephone exchange, which will be operated by members of the signal section. A telegraph and express office is also to be installed and special arrangements have been made with the Bank of Montreal. Branch at Glace Bay to open a temporary branch to cash the men's pay checks.

Recruiting the 185th

Cape Breton has shown the Maritime provinces how to do it. Although the Island has in the past supplied its full share of the men demanded from the province of Nova Scotia, it has again lead in the contest to raise a battalion of infantry in a scheduled time.

The 185th Battalion was primarily

intended as one of the units of BNova Scotia's Highland Brigade; and though its authorization came some weeks ahead of the other two units, which are to form, with the 85th Battalion, the brigade, actual recruiting did not commence until February 27th. On this date the campaign for recruiting the Highland Brigade was opened in all parts of the province. The first gun for the raising of the 185th Cape Breton Highlanders was fired in Sydney on that Sunday night, with addresses by Lt. Col. Day, the officer commanding, Major Harrington, who was in charge of the campaigning, Lt. Maddin, deputy recruiting officer for Sydney, and other officers of the battalion. Mayor W. A. Richardson of Sydney, occupied the chair, and during the remainder of the campaign gave unstintingly of his time. Unestimable assistance was also given by Warden LeVatte of the Municipality of the County of Cape Breton and by the officials of the various civic corporations in the country. Everyone worked hard and the campaign was so successful as to show what could be done by organized effort and was a great fact that the 185th was raised before either the 193rd or 194th.

Previous to the raising of the 185th Battalion, the 193rd and 194th were raised for home defence purposes and to the armies of France, Belgium, Russia and Italy, some 2000. The task of raising a thousand men in ten days was no small one, yet it was accomplished with excellent credit to everyone connected with the undertaking.

The Chief recruiting officer in Cape Breton County, Major Harrington had under him Lt. Maddin, in the Sydney district; Lt. A. W. McLean, in the Glace Bay and South Cape Breton district; Capt. M. D. McKeigan in Leitch's Creek district; Lt. C. W. Stubbins, in North Sydney; Lt. Purves at Sydney Mines; Lt. McNeil, in the Marion Bridge district, and Lt. McInnis in the New Waterford district. Lt. Verner, Major Johnstone, second in command of the battalion, was chief recruiting officer in the Inverness, Richmond and Victoria counties. He was given valuable assistance by Capt. McIsaac.

Under both Major Johnstone and Major Harrington the campaigns in their different sections of the Island was carried out with remarkable success, and it is doubtful if a more representative aggregation from all parts of the territory could be gathered together. In both sections the recruiting officers were given hearty support by Lt. Col. Day, who travelled, in spite of the very bad weather, to almost every accessible place which time would permit. The work done by the commanding officer also had in view the welfare of the men for the future and at every point the ladies were addressed and societies of the

Green Feather, the distinguishing badge of the battalion in the brigade, was formed. The officers of the battalion have shown what Cape Bretoners will do, when the way is shown, and the men of Cape Breton have responded as only "The Breed of Manly Men" can.

The 185th Y. M. C. A.

The Y. M. C. A. is a recognized factor in military camp life and the officer commanding the 185th Battalion was up to the minute in assisting that the National C. Y. M. C. A. send a representative to begin camp life with the Battalion. The military secretary arrived on Saturday morning last and the first Sunday in Broughton camp with the men. The supply of reading matter was limited; but with writing material on hand a good number of letters were sent out of camp Monday. The Y. M. C. A. plan is to fit into the Battalion life and do its best to help pass the time not used for drill. Writing and reading matter is provided free for all the men; music games, etc., and a moving picture house will soon be in operation. The Y. M. C. A. will do their best for the 185th Cape Breton Highlanders.

The Secretary S. O. Watt is anxious to be of assistance to anyone, and will do his part to make this an up to date regiment. Everybody boost for the 185th Battalion C. E. F., and its Y. M. C. A.

The Green Feather.

The "Green Feather" is a society, which has been formed in almost every place in the Island of Cape Breton to care for the comfort of the men of the 185th Battalion. It takes its name from the green feather, which is the distinguishing badge of the Cape Breton battalion in the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade. It was organized at the invitation of the Commanding Officer. The battalion has already much to thank the ladies of the Green Feather for. At every centre these Societies have organized in a thoughtful and thorough manner to aid the battalion both materially and socially. The Societies at Sydney, North Sydney and Glace Bay have already contributed handsomely toward the band, pipes and regimental fund, and have been unflinching in their assistance toward the comfort and social welfare of the men while they were billeted in their city and towns. The men of the battalion have appreciated these favors to the fullest extent and are much encouraged by the fact that in the future they will be remembered by many favors and kindnesses by the ladies of Cape Breton.