

Lieut. Cameron D. Brant

By Max McD

One hundred years ago, on the banks of the Thames River, near the little town of Moraviantown, Ontario, one of the bravest warriors that ever fought for the Union Jack was killed. Tecumseh, the "Crouching Panther," the "Shooting Star," fighting with the nation of his adoption, Canada, with his teeth clenched and dressed in his native garb, with a green ostrich feather in his hair, was felled to the ground by the axe of Colonel Johnson, the commander of the American riflemen.

It is a long call from Moraviantown in 1815 to Langemarck in 1915, but in the hundred years the loyalty of the descendants of Tecumseh has been marked by many acts of heroism in defence of the British Empire, and when the news of battle resounded through Canada, the Six Nation Indians arose en masse and again offered their services. In the Council House at Ohsweken last September, they voted \$1,500 to their brother, Ka-rah-kon-tye, the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada, to be used by the Imperial authorities "as a token of the alliance existing between the Six Nations and the British Crown." Major Gordon J. Smith, superintendent of the Six Nation Indians, and Major of the 25th Brantford Dragoons, referring to this gift of money, said to the writer: "When the subscription was being discussed, many of the chiefs were anxious to contribute as much as \$5,000."

In addition to the gift to the Governor-General, the Six Nations offered their warriors, all and sundry, for the firing line. They have actually given 50 young redskins, many of whom have already shed their blood for their country. Prominent among them was Lieut. Cameron D. Brant, known to his comrades in arms as "Chief" Brant. The young officer is a great-grandson of the loyal and celebrated Captain Joseph Brant (They-an-den-gea), the leader of the Mohawks in the Revolutionary war and chief of the Six Nations when they left the United States and came to Canada, and was a direct descendent of Tecumseh. Cameron Brant was himself a chief of the Six Nations, of which the Mohawks are the principal tribe, and lived in Hamilton, Ontario. He was formerly a lieutenant in the 37th Haldimand Rifles, joining the active service contingent of the 4th battalion at Cayuga, together with a number of his Indian friends.

At the front Lieut. Brant maintained the family reputation for bravery, combined with natural Indian cunning and recklessness. Praise from commanding officers, and admiration from his men, have been called forth by the manly characteristics exemplified by this red man from Canada while under fire in the trenches. William Marchington, the war correspondent, writing from London, says of Brant:

"A letter from the senior officer of his battalion refers to the gallantry of Lieut. C. D. Brant, a descendent of the Indian Chief Brant. Young Chief Brant has figured in several exploits which won the admiration of the chief officers; 'the boys will follow him anywhere,' says the letter."

It is said that at Moraviantown Tecumseh, with a presentiment of death, had, before the battle, discarded his gold-laced general's uniform, and dressed himself in his Indian garb, which well set off his light sinewy figure. In a handkerchief rolled as a turban over his brow was a handsome ostrich feather which had been given him. He passed the hand of each officer as he passed along the line, made some remark in Shawnee appropriate to the occasion, which the officers understood by the expressive signs accompanying it, and then passed away from view to his Indians. Not so with Brant. He went into the battle of Langemarck in the khaki of a Canadian soldier, and with his men following close behind, he fell with his face to the foe.

On the way to Salisbury, the "Chief" was asked by some of his brother officers to instruct them in the mysteries of an Indian war dance. After many rehearsals the dance was perfected to the highest degree possible to white men, and then to the accompaniment of drums, many

war hoops, and weird, dreamy singing. The officers, led by Lieut. Brant, nightly performed their celebrated dance on the deck of the transport.

The Six Nation Reservation has given the world some prominent men and women. Pauline Johnson (Tek-ah-ion-wake), the silver-tongued reader and literary woman of ability, was nursed in a wigwam on the Grande River; Dr. Or-on-e-teka, of Canadian forester fame, was a Mohawk; Old Moses Martin, a Mohawk of the Grande River, gave the Oneidas, Mohawks, Onondagas, and Tuscaroras the Bible in their own tongue; Tom Longboat, the famous athlete, and Lewis Deer (Oskenonton) a basso of rare power, both hail from the Six Nations Reserve; and as great as these, and who knows, but greater, was the soldier, Lieut. Cameron D. Brant, who, on the firing line in Belgium, upheld the noble traditions of his tribe and gave his life for King and country.

At the time of the Revolutionary war, Six Nation Indians were living in New York State, but took sides with Britain on the understanding that if Britain lost the campaign they would be given land in Canada to recompense them for land surrendered in the United States. Thus they became refugees in the wilds of Canada, driven from their homes in the Mohawk Valley as the Belgians are in England to-day. The fidelity of Joseph Brant, the Mohawk Chief, and his followers won for the tribe a reserve in Western Ontario, where to-day the city of Brantford (Brant's Ford) recalls the memory of an Indian loyalist.

It is not so many years since the village of Ohsweken, on this same reservation on the banks of the Grande River, echoed with war hoops and glared with the light of yellow fires of the Mohawks as they made a chief of the lad, Prince Arthur. This is the first case on record of Royalty sitting in the councils of the red men, and has done much to seal the loyalty of the Six Nations.

The enlistment of Lieut. Brant and his fellow Mohawks has aroused great patriotic interest among the women of the reserve. A woman's patriotic league of Six Nation Indian women from each of the churches has been formed to work for the red men of their nation who have gone to the front.

A Type of Some Controversialists

An Irishman, entering the fair at Balinagone, saw the well-defined form of a large round head bulging out of the canvas of a tent. The temptation was irresistible; up went his shillelagh—down went the man. Forth rushed from the tent a host of angry fellows to avenge the onslaught. Judge of their astonishment when they found the assailant to be one of their own faction. "Och, Mike," said they; "and did ye not know it was Brady O'Brien ye hit?" "Troth, I did not," says he; "bad luck to me for that same; but sure if my own father had been there, and his head looking so nice and convenient, I could not have helped myself." Poor Paddy! True type of some controversial spirits; it is not in them to let the chance of a blow go by. They are of the brood of the vulture, not of the dove. "They scent the battle from afar." And many of the moot points for which they have done fierce fight are so infinitesimally small, that we would not give the turn of a button-shank to get them infallibly decided.

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