

EPIC OF THE CANADIANS WHO FOUGHT IN NORTHERN RUSSIA

Wherever they may be scattered on their return all Canada should know the epic of the Canadian who fought in Russia.

A portion of them—the section which for convenience sake was known as the Elope Party—is again at home. The Elope Party was the 16th Brigade of Canadian Field Artillery which served under Colonel C. H. L. Sharman, C. M. G., C. B. E., under whose personal supervision it was recruited at Willey. Colonel Sharman's method was to pick the best officers he could find who had served under him in France. They in turn picked the best men who had served under them. In this way the personnel was the very finest.

The party started for Archangel in September, 1918, and was immediately rushed down 200 miles south to the front which the Bolsheviks were then threatening. On the way it shed two small parties, one detached for duty with the railway and one for duty near Selkist. The balance of the Brigade proceeded for duty with the Divina force.

The business of the Canadian Artillery was to hold a point at the junction of the Vega and Divina Rivers. This was the strategic point which was the key of the whole position. The Canadians went straight into action, and at the time the prospects were not of the brightest. The Bolsheviks were well armed, and they were also many. At no time, even including the Artillery, did the Allied Force here number more than 5,000, while a very moderate estimate of the Bolsheviks placed their numbers at 12,000. Altogether it was reckoned that 32,000 Bolsheviks were opposed to the little North Russian Expeditionary Force under General Ironside, formerly G. S. O. L. 4th Canadian Division.

The Canadians had arrived only just before the winter "freeze up," and as it was held that offensive tactics were most suited to the very serious needs at the moment, the party rushed on to a point some 75 miles beyond the junction. Then from January until May began one long rearguard action. The Bolsheviks not only had weight of numbers but weight of guns on their side, and to save the situation three 60 pounders were brought down over the snow and ice in March and April. That gave the Artillery a range of 16,000 yards which was all it could compass before. None the less so persistent and bold was the Bolshevik attack that the little force, which was now under the command of Colonel Sharman, was compelled to fall back foot by foot, fighting every inch of the way.

Conditions were very bad all round. The temperature was below zero, and comforts practically non-existent, but the approach of spring and the break up of the ice threatened a peril which was worse than any discomfort. The break up of the ice meant that it would release the Bolshevik Fleet then frozen in upstream. The Bolshevik Fleet, which consisted of various kinds of craft, included some big rats on which were mounted guns of a calibre

which would enable the enemy to shell the Allied Force out of its positions, as soon as the Bolshevik vessels could get under way.

Downstream to the north there was the small British Fleet composed of monitors and river gun boats only too anxious to join battle with the Bolsheviks, but the ice breaking upstream would inevitably enable the opposing Fleet to get into action first. It was, therefore, obvious that the crisis would come during the days when the ice had not sufficiently melted to enable the British Fleet to come up to the Allies' aid.

The ice broke, and the crisis came about May 5, on which dates the Bolsheviks threw 5,000 shells into the Allied positions. The 60 pounders did good work, and to some extent checked the fire from the Bolshevik Fleet, but the shells became still greater when the whole of the Russian force which was ostensibly supporting the Allies, lifted their officers and went over to the enemy.

This threw the flank of Colonel Sharman's main position open to the enemy, and there was a very serious situation and some very sharp fighting before the position was recaptured, but not until the British Fleet came up to the rescue, some of the Bolshevik rafts went down in flames, and the rest of the enemy Fleet ran for it.

Upon this there arose a very interesting position. Colonel Sharman had the British Fleet placed under him for tactical, so that in addition also became a Naval Commander.

So successful were the combined land and river operations under Col. Sharman that with the coming spring the Bolsheviks' attack was smashed, but it was only by grim and determined fighting that the situation had been saved.

The Governor General of North Russia was so impressed and so grateful for the wonderful work which had been done that he bestowed ten St. George's Crosses—the Russian equivalent to the V. C.—and ten St. George's medals on the Canadians. On this occasion the Canadians followed the Russian custom, that is to say no Crosses or Medals were accepted for Officers, but they were given to the men who voted them to those other ranks whom they thought most deserving of the honor. The Governor General, however, refused to allow any Canadian Officer to leave the country unaccompanied, and every Canadian Officer bore away with him from Russia some mark of distinction. He also sent a message through the Brigade to the Canadian Government expressing the heartfelt gratitude of the Russian Government for the incomparable assistance rendered to the Russian Cause by the Canadian Artillery.

The Brigade was also paraded before Major-General Ironside, Commander-in-Chief in North Russia, who in addition to rendering thanks made the statement that the Canadian Artillery had time and again saved the whole Expeditionary Force.

grand lodge for their most capable and efficient work during the last year.

- The election of officers for the year resulted as follows:
- E. N. Stockford, G. C. T., re-elected eighth term, St. John, N. B.
 - Miss Violet Johnson, G. V. T., Clarndon.
 - Rev. Thomas Marshall, G. C., Fairville.
 - Mrs. A. B. Day, G. S. J. W., Midlands.
 - A. B. Day, G. E. Supt., Midlands.
 - Rev. W. J. Bevis, G. Secy., Lorneville.
 - Henry W. McEachern, G. Marshal, St. John, N. B.
 - B. L. Kirkpatrick, G. Treas., St. John.
 - Rev. A. L. Tedford, G. Chap., St. John.
 - John McEachern, G. S. T. E., St. John.
 - Roy Trites, G. Guard, Moncton.
 - Arthur Morrell, G. D. M., Moncton.
 - Miss Ateen Cosman, G. A., Mj'd lands.
 - Mrs. T. Brown, G. Sent., St. John.

DELUGE OF RAIN SPOILS THE FAIR AT ST. STEPHEN

Clouds That Have Threatened All the Week Let Go Today Bringing to an End the Festivities.

Special to The Standard. St. Stephen, N. B., Sept. 12.—The St. Stephen Fair came to a close, today, in a deluge of rain. Clouds that had been threatening since the opening morning last Tuesday broke at noon today and, everything practically came to an end, though an attempt will be made to pull off the postponed horse races Saturday afternoon, if the storm ceases before morning.

This afternoon freights cars at the fair grounds were being loaded with the live stock returning to their farms, for it is a feature of the St. Stephen Fair that stock is delivered directly from the train to the grounds, the C. F. R. rails running along one side of the grounds. Notwithstanding the rain of today, the fair has been a big financial success, and the directors are encouraged to make further enlargements for the twelfth annual show that will be held the second week in September, 1920.

Grand Lodge Of Good Templars

E. N. Stockford Again Elected as Grand Chief Templar—State of Order Reported as Good.

The fiftieth annual session of the Grand Lodge of Good Templars of New Brunswick was held at Midland, Kings County, on Wednesday, E. N. Stockford, G. C. T., occupied the chair for his seventh time as G. C. T. of New Brunswick.

The following Grand Lodge officers were in attendance: E. N. Stockford, G. C. T.; Mrs. B. L. Kirkpatrick, G. T.; J. E. Milton, G. Secy.; Mrs. A. B. Day, G. S. J. T.; A. B. Day, G. Marshal; B. L. Kirkpatrick, G. E. Supt.

After the opening ceremony various committees were appointed. The state of order committee reported that all lodges were flourishing, both financially and numerically. The obituary committee reported six deaths during the term, after which the gathering stood and sang "Shall We Gather at the River," and Rev. W. J. Bevis offered prayer.

The grand chief templar, E. N. Stockford, and Grand Secretary, J. E. Milton, read their reports which were received and a hearty vote of thanks was extended to them on behalf of the

HAY AND GRAIN NOT IN THE BEST OF CONDITION

Unfavorable Weather Has Seriously Affected the Crops — Potatoes Rotting in Some Districts.

Fredericton, N. B., Sept. 9.—Extremely unfavorable weather conditions for harvesting the remainder of the hay and the grain crops is the report from all sections. Considerable of the cut grain is already becoming quite weathered and, unless better weather conditions prevail soon, there is danger of the grain growing, with a consequent heavy loss. Wind and rain storms have caused the grain to lodge quite badly in many places; this will render it difficult to cut. The grain is a good sample and will give a fair yield if it can be harvested.

Many reports come in of potatoes rotting quite badly in the fields. This is largely confined to districts where spraying is done. The loss in these districts will be quite heavy and will reduce the total crop in the province to some extent. In the large potato-growing districts the crop is coming along well and good yields are reported. Prices continue around \$3.00 per barrel at shipping points.

Several carloads of lambs have been sold from the North Shore district, the price realized being 15c per lb., live weight. Some of these went to Montreal. Lambs are reported to be in good condition.

Milk production is going down quite rapidly, as is to be expected at this time of year. The output of cheese and butter factories will be 15 p. c. greater than last year. It has been a good season generally for dairying. The pastures have been good.



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EAST FLORENCEVILLE
East Florenceville, Sept. 12.—Miss Della Saunders, supervisor of Women's Institutes for Prince Edward Island, who has been spending her vacation at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Saunders, has returned to her work at Charlottetown on Monday.

Mr. Leorne D. Boyer who went to Worcester, Mass., last Friday, returned home on Wednesday, this week. Miss Myrtle E. Carie is attending the fall military openings at St. John. She went on Monday last. Mr. and Mrs. Percy Semple accompanied by Miss Carrie Carie and Mr. Ralph Wightman, motored to Woodstock on Wednesday.