

In the Spotlight



THE SHELL GAME.

(Written for the Express.)

In front of our Collegiate Institute stand two silent sentinels, relics of a century-old warfare. These two muzzle-loading cannons provide a wide contrast to the modernized field weapons which this present war has brought to our thoughts. In the old cannon, the men rammed down a charge of powder, rammed a wadding on top of it, then rammed in the shot, and on that rammed more wadding. A slow fuse touched off from the top of the gun furnished the ignition. The shot was fired, gun cleaned out, and the same process repeated. Considering the difficulties of re-sighting and awkward handling, about twelve shots an hour would have been pretty strenuous work.

To-day they claim our 18-pound field guns will fire twenty-eight shots a minute! A few people have been fortunate enough to pay a visit to a real munition plant. Those few begin to understand the wonders of present day ingenuity. Supposing you have not had the opportunity, perhaps an account of a hurried trip through one of Canada's largest plants with a very competent guide may be of interest. At any rate, a few observations on shells may help you to realize what a wonderful part Canada's three hundred factories on munition work have played in the war.

The most generally used shells are the 18-pound shrapnel and 18-pound high explosive. The shrapnel shell consists of its cartridge case, holding the firing charge, of the shell itself, and of the percussion cap. The shell part contains an additional explosive charge, which bursts the shell and shoots its contents—bullets, not scrap iron—in advance of it. It is used for trench work. The high explosive consists of the cartridge case and the shell itself, with percussion cap. The shell in this case, however, contains a large quantity of high explosive and no bullet charge. It is used only to burst on impact with walls or defensive works, with the purpose of blowing them up. The factory in question manufactured only shrapnel shells. This shell is approximately three and one-third inches in diameter, and about ten inches long, weighing 18 pounds total when finished.

The start of the shell is in the steel plant. Here a solid steel "blank," of practically the size and shape of a tomato can, is heated up to a dazzling red heat and placed under a huge press or hammer. At first it is used to take three blows to finish the shell forging. When it is finished it looks like a large tumbler about a foot long with walls probably as thick as your lead pencil, and with the bottom closed in solid. At the present time every blow of the hammer turns out two shell forgings. That's what ingenuity did.

The munition factory receives these shell forgings in carloads of about twenty-five hundred each. The first operation on them is to cut them off to length. A gang of machines cut an inch or two off the open end—a few seconds' work on each shell. The shells are all handled in lots of one hundred and twenty, and each lot is kept by itself throughout. The next operation is to "rough turn." The shell is held in a lathe by expanding jaws, and a tool takes a single cut over its entire length, making it to within about one-fiftieth of an inch of its finished size. One shell takes about ten minutes. The next operation is to rough and finish face the base. The shell is placed in a special machine for this work and enough metal cut off the bottom to leave the base of the shell nearly the right thickness. The shells are then taken to other machines to be bored. They were, of course, made fairly true to shape inside in forging them originally, but this operation brings the inside to its finished condition, all accurately measured to gauge. The next operation is a very curious one. They call it "cutting the groove and waving." About an inch up from the bottom of the shell, a groove, about an inch wide and an eighth of an inch deep, is cut out on an automatic machine, and in the central part of this groove two parallel "waves" are left. Do you remember when, as a child, you used to fasten one end of a rope to a post and give the other end a snap—a series of waves would travel along the rope. That is what these waves are like, only they are around the shell, and the waves alternately point towards the top and bottom of the shell. They are very small—the waves are probably only an eighth of an inch high—and the metal forming them only two tiny ridges around the shell—not as

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ADDITIONAL LOCALS

Mr. C. M. Firby, of Paynes' Mills, was an Aylmer visitor last week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Ransom, of Binghamton, N.Y., are visiting their uncle Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Reavely.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Parker, of Lapier, Mich., are visiting the latter's brother, Wm. Reavely, after an absence of 17 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Benner, of Malahide, are moving to Port Stanley, where Mr. Benner has secured a position as mail carrier on one of the rural routes.

Men, women and children of every age, find Rexall Orderies a perfect laxative. Sold only by Rexall Drug Stores, 15c and 25c boxes.—J. E. Richards & Co.

Dr. W. J. Fear has received a letter from his brother, Mr. George A. Fear, Chico, California, containing the sad news of the death of the latter's wife, after a short illness.

Dr. Charles W. Marlatt, Mrs. Marlatt and Miss Edna Marlatt, and Mrs. W. E. Leonard, who have spent the last three months in California, are expected home on the first of April.—St. Thomas Times.

A cablegram received yesterday by J. C. Haggan from Hythe, England, stating that Lieut. Winfred Davis was there, suffering from slight wounds received while in France. — Lieut. Davis is a former Aylmer boy, and his many friends will be glad to learn his wounds are not serious.

Mr. F. G. McAlister, B.A., formerly Statistician of the Ontario Highways Commission, who is at present making a further study along these lines at the request of the Canadian Economic and Development Commission of the Federal Government, stopped over in Aylmer on Sunday as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Aleck Conner.

Mr. E. W. R. Hill is in receipt of a very fine photo of the 43rd Battery, taken at Guelph just before they went overseas. They are a fine body of men, and their veteran and distinguished commanding officer, Col. McCrae, makes a fine setting for the sturdy and determined company of young fellows by whom he is surrounded.

Mr. Gilbert Gascoill, the efficient teller of the Royal Bank here, severs his connection with that institution on Saturday, having enlisted for overseas service with the 168th Battalion, Oxford. During the months Mr. Gascoill has been in Aylmer, he has made many business and social friends, who, while regretting to have him leave Aylmer, admire his loyalty to his King and Country. He will, we understand, be attached to the paymaster's staff of the 168th. He already has a brother in khaki.

The Herendeen Hotel property at the corner of Pitt street west and Goyeaustreet in Windsor, has changed hands, for \$25,000, less than one-half the amount offered James Herendeen for it six months ago. Elihu Wigle, owner of the International Hotel, is the buyer. It is his intention to remodel the building into a business block at an expense of about \$50,000. Mr. Herendeen is a former Aylmer hotelkeeper, having kept the Herendeen House, which is now closed, on the corner of Talbot and Queen Streets.

Another old and highly esteemed resident of South Dorchester passed to the great beyond on Sunday evening in the person of Mrs. Ann Cole, wife of Samuel Cole, Sr. Mrs. Cole, whose maiden name was Porter, was born in Yarmouth over sixty-nine years ago. She was married nearly fifty years, the greater part of which were spent in Dorchester. Besides her aged husband, she leaves to mourn her loss four sons—Samuel, Jr., and John, of Dorchester; William of Yarmouth and Ernest of Medicine Hat, and two daughters, Mrs. Hewitt, of Michigan, and Nora at home. The funeral will be held yesterday afternoon, interment being at Springfield Cemetery.

Charles A. Vining, of Toronto, son of Rev. A. J. Vining, B. A., a former pastor of the Aylmer Baptist church, is taking a lieutenant's course. Mr. Vining, who is a distinguished graduate of Woodstock College, relinquished his course at Toronto University, where he was in his second year, to join the colors. Our Universities have the privilege of sending men from their officers training corps for service on the Imperial forces, as second lieutenants, and at all examinations the Canadians have stood the test well. For instance, at the last one, the first and third places in the order of merit went to them. Thirty-four men are now on their way from Toronto University to England to accept such positions. Of these the Applied Science students contributed 17; the medicals come next in numbers with 6, while the Methodist and Baptist Colleges, Victoria and McMaster, each send one, the representative of the latter being B. F. Trotter, who is no doubt a relative of a former Aylmer pastor.

The Big Store

Aylmer's Best Stores

The General Store

ADVANCE EASTER STYLES

To win the position of unchallenged supremacy in the world of Women's Garments is indeed an accomplishment to hold it unassailed is even more, with this presentation we believe that we are offering to the women of this community the most representative of the world's fashions.

EASTER STYLES

A most circumscribed title for really every style here, is a style of the season to set the model for the entire summer and with influence on the coming fall.

Suits, Dresses, Coats, Blouses and Separate Skirts vie with becoming attractiveness. You will see at their best, Tailored Suits and Coats for special or dress occasions.



Smart Styles in Ladies and Misses Suits

Suit of Nava Gaberdine a smart model coat shows Cape Collar pleated back belt full skirt priced \$25 00

Ladies and Misses White Chinchilla Coats convertible collar, beautiful goods, priced \$10 00, \$12 50, \$15 00

Handsome Dress of Satin Duchess in Copenhagen, Brown, Black, a number of models to show, priced from \$10 00 to \$16 50

Ladies Suit Serges, all colors priced from \$5 00 to \$8 50

Serge Skirts in Navy and Black, priced from \$2 50 \$6 50

The Big Store

Dry Goods, Millinery, Ladies' Ready to Wear, Gent's Furnishings, Clothing, House Furnishings, Hats and Caps

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Highest market prices paid for produce, good to shop at both stores.

The General Store

Dry Goods, Groceries, Boots & Shoes, Hats & Caps, Neckwear

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Inspired by the every day demand of fashion—as different as original—as chic as ever season dared. Big Store Millinery is looked up to naturally because it so uncommonly pretty and original—from those that tell—up at the back, in front, or the side to those that have been moulded as it were to fit the individual face.

All are Distinctive

Black Silk Coats

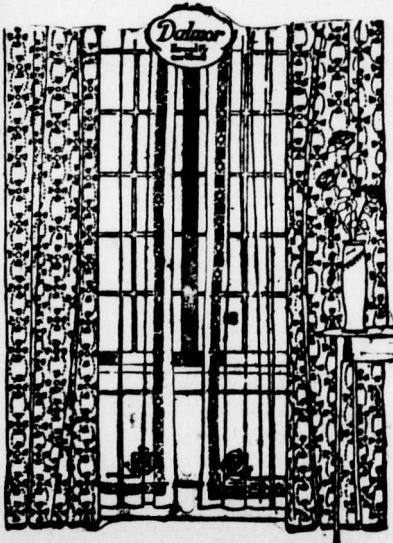
Black Silk Coats for big Women, we have them in all sizes up to 44, priced \$16 50

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being one of the most remarkable and representative assemblages of Summer Wash Goods this store has ever shown, the flowered weave that fashion has approved. Priced from 15c to 60c a yard

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As the window hangings either make or mar a room, a great care is necessary in selecting materials that harmonize with the furniture and decorations. If you have a drapery or upholstery problem let us show how inexpensively and attractively it may be solved.

Our large and well-assorted stock comprises goods that are artistic and in good state, and we are always glad to show goods and offer suggestions. Prices too, are attractive and so varied as to suit any purse.

Curtains to Suit any Room

in White, Cream or Linen Colorings

See our Lace-Trimmed White Marquisettes

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