

Lieut.-Col. "Cy" Peck, V.C., D.S.O.

A SOLDIER M.P.



LIEUT.-COL. CY PECK, of Prince Rupert, B.C., holds the unique distinction of being the only member of any British overseas parliament awarded the Victoria Cross in the recent war. Canada is highly honored by the valour demonstrated by such an exceptional distinction. Cy Peck typifies in a striking way the Overseas Forces.

When the war broke out he knew rather less about a rifle than he did

about a row-boat. He was in business in a pioneer district of British Columbia on the last frontier of British possessions in America, as far away from the possibility of warfare as it was possible for anyone to get. On the very day that war was declared he enlisted at Prince Rupert. He had been married but six months before, and business ties as well as advancing years might have suggested that he give way to younger men.

He was one of the most public-spirited citizens in Prince Rupert and well known throughout the district, so that soon after his enlistment he was put in charge of recruiting in the North country, and in short order got together 225 men, whom he took to Victoria on November 6, 1914, acting as commanding officer.

Overseas he was transferred to the 16th Canadian Highlanders under Col. Leckie, now Gen. Leckie, of Victoria. Under Colonel Leckie he was made Major for meritorious service and became commanding officer of the 16th Battalion.

Wounded at Festubert.

He was wounded in the fighting at Festubert, where his business partner, Captain Don Moore was killed. He was gassed at Vimy Ridge, where for bravery he was later awarded the D.S.O. The story is told that as his regiment went into action with the band playing, he, though under the doctor's care, marched

ahead of the band and stayed in the fight until the ridge was won.

Later in the war Lieut.-Col. Cy Peck, with spartan courage carried a message from Colonel Leckie to Colonel Hatch, and it was not until afterwards that it was discovered he had done this while suffering from a gunshot wound in the leg.

In the Dominion election of 1917, Lieut.-Col. Peck, D.S.O., as he was then, was offered the Unionist nomination for Prince Rupert and Skeena, though he was overseas. In spite of strong opposition, he was finally declared elected in his absence, an honour which he fully appreciates. Col. Cy Peck, V.C., D.S.O., was in the war from the first day, and remained in it till the last. He received the highest honour a soldier on the field can aspire to. Canada is honoured by such a man, and the House of Commons is dignified by this most valourous member.

Free Masonry in Canada will be gratified to know that Cy Peck of Prince Rupert, the new V.C., is a 32nd degree man, and all Canadians will recognize in him the personification of Canadian valour and citizenship.



A Bit of Beautiful B. C.