

### PIGION SAVED AVIATORS.

Thrilling Experience of Flight Commander Leckie, D.H.O.

How Flight-Commander R. Leckie, D.S.O., again proved his mettle by the rescue of two aviators from a seaplane fifty miles from the North Sea coast, after they had been exposed to the buffeting of waves and weather for no less than four days, is modestly told in a letter received by Mr. Robert Leckie, of Toronto, who is proud to be an uncle of the intrepid young birdman.

After telling of the difficulties experienced in fighting Zepps owing to their ability to rise to extreme altitudes, the letter proceeds:

After having been under shell and machine-gun fire for almost an hour, I found myself facing the necessity of making a landing between 50 and 75 miles out at sea to rescue the crew of a land machine which had dropped in the sea through engine trouble. After getting the pilot and passengers aboard my craft, I found it impossible to get off again owing to the rough sea, and the fact that the hull of my "boat" had been struck by shrapnel at a height of 10,000 feet, and was fast making water.

"I will not describe the horror of the days that followed, days spent in 'watching waiting' and nights in duty watches. No food at all and water at the rate of one eggcupful each day, until the small allowance gave out, then the muck from the engine radiators. All the while the seaplanes gradually broke up. Also we were compelled to bale incessantly to keep afloat. During this time our base was quite unaware of our fate, though patrols were sent out searching for us.

"As you may know most long distance patrol seaplanes carry homing pigeons aboard. I had four of them with me, and it is to the splendid endurance of one of these birds that six men to-day owe their lives. On Wednesday I released a pigeon, carrying our position and cause of trouble. On Thursday a second bird was released carrying a similar message. On Friday morning a third bird was sent, and knowing that we could not last much longer, our remaining pigeon was released on Friday afternoon carrying an S.O.S. signal.

"The first three pigeons failed to reach England, but the fourth was a winner. He failed to reach his loft, it is true, but reaching the English coast about twenty miles north of our base, almost instinctively it would seem, picked out a coast guard station and fluttering into the court yard fell dead from exhaustion. At the cost of his own life he delivered his message and thus saved ours — we were picked up by H.M.S. — the next day."

#### His Share of Work.

A group of people who were touring Alaska one summer were disgusted at the laziness of the buck Indians they saw in the villages and along the trail. One day when they were taking a side trip they came upon a couple of Indians who were evidently packing into the mountains to stay a while. The squaw was staggering under a tremendous burden. She lugged all of the bedding and provisions and a papoose for good measure. The old buck was slumping along lazily ahead of her, smoking his pipe and looking down at the trail. One member of the tourist party hailed the Indians, and when they stopped he inquired, somewhat out of patience: "See here, buck, how comes it that Nikkawana is carrying all of the baggage and you are slouching along, enjoying your pipe? Why don't you take at least half of the load off your squaw, you big, lazy Indian?" The buck stood silent as a sphinx for a few moments, then he grunted to himself and pointing his index finger to his forehead, he exclaimed in deep guttural tones: "Hub, me all time think!"

#### "Take My Doll to Freedom."

Lieut. Jack O'Brien, of the French Legion, who is in Canada doing recruiting work, brings home a pitiful relic of Hun barbarism from the war. It is a doll which a little French girl handed to him in France one day as the Germans were sweeping down upon the village in which she lived. "I want you to take Dollie to freedom," said the little child, "for I don't want the Germans to get it."

Later, when he revisited the little French village he found a scene of desolation and ruin. The dead bodies of men, women and children, horribly mutilated, lay about, and among them O'Brien found the remains of the little girl.

Some time later O'Brien was given British and French honors for a gallant act in saving the day when a body of Russians had sold themselves to the enemy and were preparing to turn their machine guns against the French. O'Brien, at the head of a body of picked men, slashed his way to the Russians and taking the guns turned them upon the traitors themselves.

#### "Herb" Clarke Leads Band.

Herbert L. Clarke, who for more than twenty years has been leading cornet soloist with Sousa's Band, and who enjoys the distinction of being the leading cornet soloist of the world, has assumed his new duties as conductor of the Anglo-Canadian Leather Co.'s band at Huntsville, Ont. The Anglo-Canadian band now numbers about fifty pieces, and has among its players many distinguished professional musicians from the United States and Canada.

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#### Why Rye Bread Soars.

At present one of the gravest problems facing restaurant and hotel-keepers is what they are going to give the people to eat when the rye flour runs out. At present they are forced to serve only one ounce of wheat bread to any one individual at any morning or noon-day meal, along with two ounces of rye bread. Rye bread is exceedingly hard to get and has increased two cents per one pound and a half loaf, and is bound to increase further, so long as the demand exists. It is said that the cause of this increase in substitute flours is that when the Canadian Government fixed the price of wheat it did not fix the price of other grains.

As a result of the high price of barley many farmers are grinding their own wheat and others are actually mixing a percentage of wheat flour with bran and shorts to feed to their hogs.

In the whole of Ontario there are not more than 3,000,000 bushels of rye grown, while the western provinces produce not more than five or six hundred thousand bushels, making a total of three and one-half million bushels for the whole Dominion. There are only two or three firms milling rye flour in Toronto, and these in very small quantities. It sells at \$16.50 per barrel as against \$10.95 for wheat flour. When asked the reason for the increase a miller said: "We can't get the rye and the demand is great. A large percentage of Canada's rye went to the United States long before our Food Controller's orders about rye bread came out."

The only other substitutes would be corn, barley and rice, but there is no corn to speak of in Canada and the United States have used for some time and are still using as much corn bread as possible, while the milling of barley would involve considerable changes in the plants.

#### Russian Airmen in Canada.

Five Russian aviators, officers of the Royal Flying Corps, arrived in Canada recently on a trans-Pacific liner to offer their services to the British Royal Flying Corps. They have served on the Austrian and Austrian and Roumanian fronts, and all have been decorated for bravery. Col. Duklan, who heads the party, has been wounded three times. When Russia lapsed into anarchy, the aviators said, they resolved to come to Canada. They practically fought their way out of the country, they asserted, and, after weeks of hardships, reached Japan, where British consular officers arranged their passage overseas. In addition to Col. Duklan, the party is composed of Capt. Rosmahof and Lieuts. Katarassaki, Petrenki and Astakof.

#### Brave Aviators Honored.

Lieut. Stanley Rosevear, belonging to Fort Arthur, has been awarded a bar to his Distinguished Service Cross for attacking, on March 15th, eight aircraft, destroying two. The official statement reads: "This officer very skillful and a dashing fighting pilot." Rosevear was awarded the cross in November, mention being made of his attacking at a height of only a hundred feet. Writing home, he said he could not tell what an awful hell the barrage is, "I cannot at times hear my own engine or machine gun."

Flight-Lieut. Cecil Darley, formerly a pupil at the Curtiss School, Toronto, from Lachine, Que., also receives a bar to the cross for night bombing raids of docks and air-dromes. He received the cross in August for gallantry in bringing home his machine under difficulties after bombing Bruges.

#### A Candid Editor.

A Canadian acknowledgment of exceeding frankness is this in the Morse News: "We made an awful muddle in our last issue in announcing the arrival in town of Mrs. C. L. Whitby and her sister, Miss Robb, getting Mrs. Whitby's name in as Mrs. Miles and Miss Robb's as Miss Ross. We apologize for the error and leave our readers to form their own conclusions as to what was wrong with us."

#### POPPY AS AN EMBLEM.

Decorates the Graves of Heroes in Flanders Fields.

There is only one real rival to the Maple Leaf as a possible national emblem that could be grown on Flanders Field and be used to make beautiful the graves of the fallen Canadians, and that is the poppy, according to Mr. Percival H. Mitchell, president of the Toronto Horticultural Association.

"In my opinion," said Mr. Mitchell, "nothing should be considered as a national emblem other than the Maple Leaf. We are at present wrapped up in the Maple Leaf, and I do not see any reason why we should ever change it. If we consider a flower which has been introduced into Canada and which through several generations has become a wild flower, why not the poppy? No Canadian who has ever read 'In Flanders Field' will ever look at a poppy again without thinking of the graves in Flanders. Surely there has been sentiment wrapped up in the poppy that, through Col. McCrae's poem, will keep it very close to the hearts of Canadians. Many of the suggested spring flowers would be very lonely looking. If you could have something to carpet the graves like the phlox (subulata) it might be better. You want something that will mass. I am inclined to suggest the ox-eye daisy or black-eyed Susan, and, if those listed are grown, there should be several varieties planted so as to prolong the blooming season. Any flower or flowers selected should have the following points: They should grow under all conditions; they should have a long blooming season and the flower, when out of bloom, should still have some substance to the plant; they should be hardy and perennial; they should be decorative; they should not have been chosen by any other country or state, and they should be typical of Canada."

Mr. Mitchell said it would be difficult to mass the columbine, and that its habitat was the woods and shaded places. He was inclined to speak a good word for the aster and said there were altogether fifty-nine species and a standard form might be found. The bunch-berry seemed to be rather an insignificant little thing for such a purpose, and though it grew far north it might not grow in Flanders, and it would be difficult to get the hepatica and the trillium to grow in the open. Only the columbine and the perennial aster seemed in any way to meet the case and they did not seem very promising, as they are mostly short-lived and do not present much of an appearance after the time of inflorescence. But Mr. Mitchell returned to the Maple Leaf and pointed out that now it is strengthening its traditions more than ever. It has passed through the war. It is on the crests and badges of the battalions and can be worked effectively into design.

#### Bishop at the Front.

Lt.-Col. A. U. de Pencier, Bishop of New Westminster, B.C., has just returned after three years of strenuous work with the Canadian corps in France. Bishop de Pencier is the only Canadian bishop of the Anglican Church who has been overseas with the chaplain service. He speaks highly of the co-operation of the various religious representatives connected with the Canadian army under Col. the Rev. Canon Almond, of Montreal. Bishop de Pencier has two sons in the army and a third son intends to join the Royal Flying Corps.

#### A Complete Job.

Edith—"Well, if she accepted your flowers, your bou-bons, your bracelet, your caresses, she must have accepted about everything of yours."

Jack—"She did; she even accepted my rival."

#### Soldiers of the Soil.

Farmers of Canada are assured of the help of 35,000 active, willing boys on farms this summer, who have enlisted as Soldiers of the Soil. They will be supervised by the S. O. S. organization of the Canada Food Board.

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