Fifty Years of Masonry

Interesting Sketch of the History of Lake Lodge No. 215 A. F. and A. M., Ameliasburg, (Roblin's Mills), written for the Semi-Centennial Celebration by the Secretary, James E. Glenn.

The Ontario is indebted to Mr. James E. Glenn of Roblin's Mills for a copy of the historical sketch he read at the semi-centennial celebration of Lake Lodge, No. 215, A. F. and A. M.

We publish the sketch because of its general interest to the public and not Masons alone. Then men identified with Masonry in Ameliasburgh have been the leaders in the community life. The Masonic lodge has been a social and community center from which have flowed many wholesome influences.

The following is a brief historical sketch of the founding of Lake Lodge, No. 215, A.F. & A.M., Roblin's Mills, Township of Ameliasburg and its career from its organization to the present time, with the object of paying tribute to those brothers who were responsible for its origin and success, and who accomplished their desires under many difficulties. Written on this, the 50th anniversary or jubilee year of its extension which, we trust, may be of interest to the present and future generations of Freemasons.

Lake Lodge 1869—1919

A number of prominent and enthusiastic Freemasons actuated by a sincere desire to advance the interests of the Craft convened a meeting early in the year 1869 A. D. and unanimously resolved to secure a building suitable for a Masonic Lodge Room and to apply to the M. W. the Grand Master for a dispensation for the formation of a Masonic Lodge.

Accordingly the west wing of the large stone building on the north side of Main St. in said village, and owned by the late Owen Roblin, Esq., was considered sufficient to satisfy all the requirements of a Masonic Lodge Room and was therefore leased by the brethren for a term of years.

The following petition was then presented to the M. W. the Grand Master, praying for a dispensation to organize a Masonic Lodge in said village of Roblin's Mills to be denominated Lake Lodge No. 215 A. F. & A.M. on the register of the Grand Lodge of Canada, with the names of the following brethren inscribed as charter members.

Petition

To the M. W. Grand Master of the fraternity of A.F. & A.M. of Canada, in the Province of Ontario:

We, the undersigned, being regularly registered Masons of the Lodges mentioned against our respective names, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to extend our best endeavors to promote the general principles of the art and for the convenience of our respective dwellings and other good reasons, we are dusirous of forming a new lodge to be named "Lake Lodge." In consequence of this desire we pray for a warrant of constitution empowering us to meet as a regular lodge at the village of Roblin's Mills in the County of Prince Edward on the Monday on or before the Full Moon of every month and there to discharge the duties of Masonry in a constitutional manner, according to the forms of the order and the laws of the Grand Lodge.

The petition being granted by the Grand Master, the first meeting of the brethren was held and the Lodge was consecrated and dedicated on the 26th day of May, 1869, A.D. by Rt. Wor. Bro. H. W. Day, physician and surgeon, Trenton, D.D.G.M., Prince Edward District, No. 13, A.F. & A.M., who also installed and invested the following named brethren as first officers of Lake Lodge for the ensuing Masonic year, viz:—

Wor. Bro. Edward Roblin—W. M.
Bro. Nicholas A. Peterson—S. W.
Bro. S. L. Nash—J. W.
Bro. Wm. Delong—Treas.
Bro. Jno. N. Sprague—Secty.
Bro. Wm. Anderson—S. D.
Bro. H. McCullough—J. D.
Bro. W. G. Stafford—I. G.
Bro. Elijah Sprague—Tyler.

Charter

The Lodge in the meantime, having complied with the requirements of Grand Lodge, and in conformity with the constitution there of their charter was most graciously granted on the 16th day of July, 1869 by M. W. Grand Master Col. Alexander Allen Stevenson, Montreal. Countersigned by R. W. Bro. T. D. Harris, Grand Secty.

Condensed biographical sketches of the lives of our revered charter members are recorded as follows:

The lives of those noble brothers who have passed from a life of labor to the refreshment of rest, who considered their term of office a sacred trust, who as men of light and leading identified themselves with the truest traditions and most active development of the Craft. To many of the present members they are but shadowy memories.

"Let us make them living epistles"

Doubtless the name of each brother as it is mentioned will find a sad echo in some heart which loved him well.

W. Bro. Edward Roblin was the first Master of Lake Lodge, 1869; a brother of sturdy stock that pioneered Prince Edward County. He took a lively interest in public affairs and moral reforms, a strong temperance advocate, a Justice of the Peace, issuer of Marriage Licenses, Clerk of the 4th Div. Court of the County Prince Edward, for a number of years Dep. Reeve of the Township of Ameliasburg and was extensively engaged in the milling industry at Roblin's Mills. An active and enthusiastic Freemason respected and honored by the brethren.

Bro. Jno. N. Sprague was the first secretary of Lake Lodge, 1869. Spent his boyhood days on the farm in the Township of Ameliasburg. With his brother, Elijah Sprague, founded the Sprague Manufacturing Co. in the village of Roblin's Mills, which for a number of years was successfully conducted. He was a pioneer in the cheese industry in Prince Edward, being the founder and proprietor of Hyland butter and cheese factory, situated on his farm on the south side of Roblin's Lake, & leading dry goods merchant. A brother of strong convictions, sterling integrity and vigorous action. Honored and respected by his brethren and the surrounding community, he departed this life mourned by his brother Masons in 1909.

Bro. William Delong was the first treasurer of Lake Lodge. Was extensively engaged in agricultural operations on his 700-acre farm in Ameliasburg. Several years Municipal Treasurer of the Township. A brother of sterling character, high ideals and solid worth, ever ready to help the needy, a generous supporter of any benevolent or patriotic cause, most indefatigable in promoting the cause of Freemasonry. After playing an important and useful part in this life, admired and beloved by his brethren he answered his Master's call June 15, 1886.

Bro. William G. Stafford, I.G., was of U. E. Loyalist descent. Born in the year 1827, in the township of Sophiasburg, removed to Ameliasburg in 1848. Engaged in tanning and the manufacture of boots and shoes, also farming extensively. A brother who always took a keen interest in public questions of the day. For 20 years recording steward of Rednersville circuit. A number of years Reeve of Ameliasburg and member of the County Council of Prince Edward. Father of Wor. Bro. D. T. Stafford and Rt. Wor. Bro. H. G. Stafford, both members of Lake Lodge.

He always took an active part in promoting the interests of Freemasonry. Faithful in the discharge of his duties, untiring in his zeal and energy, he lived universally respected and died regretted by all who knew him, on the 23rd day of April, 1884; his remains being interred by his brethren in Albury cemetery on the shore of the beautiful Bay of Quinte, there to await the resurrection morn.

Bro. Henry McCullough, J.D.A., leading and popular public school teacher, taught for several years in the Township of Ameliasburg, viz., Centre school and Rednersville school. An ardent Freemason, he shrank from no task calling for effort on his part, but cheerfully undertook the most arduous labor in forwarding the cause of Freemasonry he had so much at heart. He was honored as a man and idealized as a Mason.

Bro. William Anderson

Born April 22, 1822. A brother of superior intellectual ability, an ardent prohibitionist, a local preacher of the Methodist church, justice of the peace, captain in the Canadian Militia, commanding No. 8 Rednersville Co., 16th Prince Edward Battalion at Kingston 1866. Was an active politician in both municipal and parliamentary affairs. For several years reeve of the township of Ameliasburg and warden of Prince Edward 1884. Gifted with a logical mind and a clear, strong intellect, he was a resolute and fearless champion of what he believed to be right.

He answered the last great summons on the 23rd Dec., 1897.

Bro Alexander R. Macdonald

Born and educated in the city of Kingston. A graduate of Queen's University, graduating in the same year and class with Sir Oliver Mowat.

When the 100th Canadian Regiment was enlisted for service in the Crimean War, 1854, he joined as army medical officer; served throughout the whole campaign, was engaged in the battles of Alma and Inkerman and the seige of Sebastapool. Was severely wounded at the battle of Inkerman for which he received a pension from the Imperial Government. He saw service in the Fenian Raid at Kingston in 1866. On the outbreak of the rebellion in the Northwest, led by Louis Reil, in 1870, he was commissioned by the government of the day captain of one of the companies under Lord Wolseley to proceed to Fort Garry to protect the loyal inhabitants and assist in quelling the rebellion. He was decorated for his services by Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria with the Turkish and Crimean Medals for service in the Russian war, and with the Fenian Raid, N. W. Rebellion, and Long Service Medals for his services in Canada.

Practised medicine successfully in Consecon, Brighton and Trenton. He stood high in public esteem and was honored by the fraternity for his Masonic ability, integrity and efficiency.

Of that band of noble men and Masons, "Charter Members", after a life well lived, all have passed "that bourn from which no traveller returns" except Wor. Bro. Nicholas A. Peterson, at present residing in the city of Belleville, who at the age of 94 years, through the kindness of our Master in heaven is enjoying good health and the possession of his mental powers undimmed. Brethren, let us pay tribute to his memory the honor to which a life so long, so useful, so honorable and a devotion to Masonry so entire entitles it. Remembering "the flower that blooms today tomorrow dies."

In the lives of those honored "Charter Members" we Masons should read a deep significance. We know that the body itself of him whose race has been valiantly run shall one day rise in triumph to claim forever its animated soul "when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption and this mortal shall have put on immortality". Were it not so "the air would be full of farewells to the dying and mournings for the dead."

But still in another sense we know that whilst the body of our brother lies slowly resolving itself to its mother earth, a man lives on by force of his teaching, his example, his life and his consequent influence on others, and that it is indeed true even in this world "men never die."

Though we hear no answer from the limitless ocean on which they have set sail, may we never forget them. Nay, rather let us treasure their memory in the innermost chamber of our hearts strewn with "forget-me-nots." Let us remember and copy their virtues, their kindly words and well-remembered deeds, their sympathy in sorrow, the wealth in gladness in brighter times. Let us read aright the lesson in the beauty of their lives.

Lake Lodge had a most auspicious commencement; and since inauguration its growth and prosperity has been steady and substantial. Our initiations, passings and raisings together with joining members number over 200, representing the various avocations in which men are engaged as follows, viz., farmers, merchants, manufacturers, mechanics and artizans, 164; bank managers, Bros. Arthur G. Noxon and Wm. Knox Graham; veterinary surgeons, Bros. R. H. Fox and F. M. Pine; chemist and druggist, Bro. W. H. C. Roblin, graduate and Gold Medalist Ontario College of Pharmacy; barrister and solicitor, Bro. Earl Halliwell; public school teachers, Bros. Henry McCullough, Benjamin Rothwell, W. K. Bowerman, Jas. E. Glenn, Jas. Benson, Anson H. Young, E. M. Vandusen, Frank B. Clark, Herbert Barton, Jas. M. Root, Albert E. Thrasher, Chas. H. Kinnear, Carson S. Hubbs, and Jasper Doolittle; physicians and surgeons, Bros. Samuel L. Nash, Alex. R. Macdonald, Edgar B. Smith, E. J. Free, Wm. G. Sprague, Arnley Quackenbush, G. Harry Bleecker, J. B. Morgan, A. S. Moran, Jno. H. Knight, Jas. Sprague, T. S. Farncomb, M. D. Caughey; public school inspector, County Prince Edward, J. Edward Benson, M.A.; clergymen, Revs. Foster McAmmond, John Wilson, John C. Ash, Andrew L. Peterson, Thos. N. Macdonald, F. H. Howard, Dorland N. Morden.

Brethren who have risen eminence in the craft:—D.D.G.M. Rt. Wor. Bro. H. G. Stafford, Rt. Wor. Bro. John Earl Halliwell, Wor. Bro. J. I. Coleman, who according to official reports of Grand Lodge officers stands pre-eminent and unsurpassed in Prince Edward District in the exemplification of the ritualistic work of the several degrees of Craft Masonry.

Past Masters:—Edward Roblin, 1869-1874; Searing Johnson, 1870; Wm. G. Stafford, 1871-75-76; N. A. Peterson, 1872; Robert Dick, 1873; Benjamin Rothwell, 1877-1882; John G. Johnson, 1883-84; Wm. Delong, 1885-86-88; Donald Roblin, 1887; H. G. Stafford, 1889-90-92; Geo. E. Roblin, 1891; D. T. Stafford, 1892; J. I. Coleman, 1893; H. W. Weese, 1894; Wm. R. Johnson, 1895; A. L. Parliament, 1896; W. H. C. Roblin, 1897; W. W. Sager, 1898; T. S. Farncomb, 1899; Jas. W. Brickman, 1900; M. B. Noxon, 1901; W. F. Anderson, 1903-04; S. D. Noxon, 1905; Nelson Parliament, 1906; T. M. Pine, 1907; C. H. Bleecker, 1908; C. H. Brooks, 1909; J. A. Haight, 1910; R. H. Fox, 1911-12; C. G. Sprague, 1913; A. G. Noxon, 1914; L. Drummond, 1915; C. R. Parliament, 1916; M. G. Eckert, 1917; Jas. E. Glenn, 1918.

Brethren who have risen to prominence in municipal and Parliamentary affairs:—Reeves of the township of Ameliasburg and other municipalities, and members of the County Council of prince Edward, Bros. Wm. Anderson, Wm. G. Stafford, Wm. R. Dempsey, Geo. Roblin, H. W. Weese, Edward Roblin, Jas. E. Glenn, John Nightingale, Henry P. Benson, D'Arcy Young, John A. Sprague, Wm. E. Anderson, David Moran, D. T. Stafford, Wm. E. Delong, A. M. Weese, and R. H. Fox.

Wardens of Prince Edward County, Wm. Anderson, 1884; W. R. Dempsey, 1875; H. W. Weese, 1889; Jas. E. Glenn, 1894; Henry P. Benson, 1898; D'Arcy Young, 1905; R. H. Fox, 1919.

Township Clerks of Ameliasburg, Bros. John C. Richards, 5 years; Jas. Benson, 30 years.

Treasurers Township of Ameliasburg, Bros. Jno. N. Sprague, 15 years; Wm. Delong, 16 years; Wm. A. Brickman, 14 years; Jas. E. Glenn, 18 years.

Members of parliament, Bros Wm. Anderson, John A. Sprague, Wm. R. Dempsey and Nelson Parliament.

Wm. Anderson was a brother of superior parliamentary and oratorical ability. Represented Prince Edward in the old Parliament of Canada before Confederation, and was a member of the first Legislative Assembly of Ontario, under the premiership of Hon. John Sanfield Macdonald. He stood high up in public esteem as a man of ability and integrity.

John A. Sprague—elected to the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, and re-elected for a term of two parliaments or eight years, during the premiership of Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat. Then retiring voluntarily from parliamentary life carrying with him the universal respect and esteem of his fellow citizens. As a man he excelled in every noble quality.

None knew him but to love;
None named him but to praise.

Wm. Ryerson Dempsey—represented Prince Edward in the Ontario Legislature one parliamentary term, under the premiership of Sir Geo. W. Ross, retiring at the end of the term, carrying into private life the general respect and confidence of his constituents as an honest, honorable men and representative.

Nelson Parliament—member of the Provincial Legislature of Ontario for the last five years, under the premiership of Sir William Hearst. Again candidate for parliamentary honors in the coming election. He has discharged his parliamentary duties in such a manner as entitle him to the respect of his constituents. As a good citizen none stand higher. He possesses those qualities which distinguish the good and true brother, and which have indelibly impressed his name on the tablet of our hearts. Continued success and prosperity is the wish of every brother Mason.

In the year 1881 an incident unique in the history of private lodges occurred when Lake Lodge was honored with a visit from the M. W. Grand Master J. Ross Robertson, Toronto, on the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 13th, who delivered a lecture on "A Hundred Years with the Craft in Canada" with incidents and anecdotes of craft life. There was a large attendance of the brethren of Lake, Consecon, Star in the East and Belleville Lodges, who had the pleasure of listening to a very interesting and instructive address. Our G. Master was searching the archives of the lodges of Ontario for material to assist in editing his great work, "Freemasonry in Canada." After examining the books and documents in connection with the history of Lake Lodge, he pronounced them the neatest and most exemplary he had examined.

The substantial increase in membership of the brethren, and the lodge having outgrown its limited lodge room accommodation, securing the ownership of a lodge as a permanent home began to occupy the attention of the brethren, which led to the purchase and equipment of the present building in the year 1900, a testimony to the energy and progressiveness of the fraternity.

In the year 1910 Masonry was visited with a severe affliction in the death of Col. A. A. Stevenson, G. P. M. of the Grand Lodge of Canada, and His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. But we find solace in remembering that "He doeth all things well." M.W. Bro. Stevenson was six years G.M. of the Grand Lodge of Canada. His life when written will for forty-six years be the history of the G. Lodge of Canada as well in a great measure the history of the civic and military life of the city of Montreal. His mother was a cousin of Scotland's national bard, our brother the poet Robert Burns of immortal memory. Kindly sympathetic and generous, and always honored by his brethren.

By the death of our late sovereign King Edward VII. of blessed and glorious memory, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, of the British Dominions beyond the seas, Emperor of India, Grand Master of the G. Lodge of England for 27 years, and protector of our order up to the moment of his death, the craft lost its brightest ornament, the Empire its greatest support, and the world its first citizen.

Turning to financial and charitable matters it is pleasing to note our solicitude for our infirm and unfortunate brethren, who have ever received our sympathetic and charitable attention.

In no boastful spirit but with feelings of thankfulness we are able to announce that during the past fifty years thousands of dollars have been expended in relieving the necessities of the widow, the orphan, the distressed brother.

The widow's tear, the orphan's cry,
Are wants our ready hands supply
As far as power is given.
The naked clothed, the prisoner free,
These are thy works, sweet charity,
Revealed to us from Heaven.

To other charitable and benevolent institutions our donations have been liberal and commendable, especially Sick Children's Hospital, Red Cross War Fund, Belgian Relief Fund. All these calls have been cheerfully met, and when we note the results that have been obtained thereby we have cause for congratulation on our forethought and magnanimity.

Brethren, let us learn well the lesson of the great "Book of Books" that he who shutteth his ear against the cry of the poor and needy shall cry himself and not be heard.

During the last five years of our existence as a Masonic lodge our country, our Empire, has been engaged in the great world war, the greatest conflict for freedom and liberty and democracy the world has ever experienced. From the inception of this fight for freedom the Canadians took a significant part, and as a portion of this great Dominion there have been no laggards among the many brave hearts. Our boys went forth and took their full share of the battle for right and won their full measure of applause from the civilized world. They were not afraid to cast their all in the balance and make their sacrifice on the altar of love for the nation. Among them have been scores of the brethren of our lodges, and for those who will never return we are brought to mourn. But the spirit which prompted their devotion benumbs the feelings of pain. The blanks in our ranks are many and they are the result of love. We bow the head reverently before those who have fought, those who have suffered, and those who have laid down their lives. May God in His goodness and wisdom so guide us that the principles we teach and the influence we render will be such that their beauty and potency will be acknowledged by all mankind; that the madness of war will cease; that out of this bitterness and hatred, death and destruction, there has come a time of peace and love and fraternity.

The first candidates initiated in Lake Lodge were William Ryerson Dempsey, James Arthur Johnson, and Dean Hutchcraft, the same evening, Oct. 18, 1869, A.D.

The oldest living brother, Nicholas A. Peterson, aged 94 years. Present membership, 90. Receipts for 1918, $925.75; disbursements, $724.60.

It is said a custom prevails among the peasantry in parts of Ireland to leave the door of their cottage open and a light burning on Christmas Eve. This is done, it is said, by some that should the Christ child return to earth, instead of beharbored in a manger, He might have a better and more appropriate abiding place. Others say it shows a welcome to the passerby and the wayfarer. The door of our lodge is always open, and a light is always burning to welcome those who, seeing our good works, are willing to join our ranks and be contributors to the ancient usages, customs and landmarks of the fraternity. We welcome those who come with no ulterior motive than that of doing good to mankind and bettering the human race.

Today we are fifty years removed from our cradle as a Masonic Lodge; fifty times have the great years rolled around, and with ever widening circles have we grown in numbers, until today our influence is felt for weal or woe throughout the entire jurisdiction. The God of our fathers, our God, has blessed us with prosperity. Brethren, let us ask ourselves this question: How do we stand in regard to the law of progression? Are we better men and Masons? Are we holier in life and finer in thought? Have we risen to the higher levels of fraternal love? Are our ears quickened to the cry of distress? Are our aspirations strengthened and increased in search of truth? If we can affirmatively reply to these questions we need take but little thought of numerical increase or material gain, for we shall have achieved Masonry the cardinal tenets of which are "Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth."

May peace and harmony prevail in Lake Lodge for the next fifty years, and for all time, as it has for the past fifty years, and may the Most High bless every member of our beloved fraternity.

Brethren, on this, our fiftieth anniversary day, this the evening of our semi-cen. existence as a lodge, let us renew our Masonic vows. May we all be true and faithful to each and may we live and die in brotherly love.

God save the King.

For Law And Order

Written for The Ontario by
Chas. M. Bice, Lawyer, Denver, Colorado.

The outstanding feature of Tuesday's election in the various states, was the election of Govenor Collidge of Massachusetts by a sweeping majority on a ticket that stood pre-eminently for law and order. It meant that the heart of the nation is sound and steadfast for the right. When the nation is endangered from without and within, partisanship is forgotten The "off year" election was the most significant held in many a year. We are glad it came.

How the politician may look at the matter is of little significance; what the people wanted to know was how matters stood on the vital issue of maintaining an orderly government, and the measure was most emphatic and reassuring. Surely the men in charge of the labor strikes are not so blind but that they can see in the returns form Massachusetts a warning to them to go slow and tread carefully to escape the wrath of a nation patient and long suffering but terrible in its wrath, as an empire that sought to press the limit on our patience knows to its cost.

Broadly speaking, the Bay state election was fought out on the questions raised by the Boston policemen's strike. The city of culture went close to being a Bolshevist center for a brief period. Law fell by the wayside. Pillage followed on the heels of the police strike. Governor Collidge cut red tape and took control of the Boston situation. He set aside local officials who were trafficking with the strikers, and put in men of his own to restore order and maintain the supremacy of the law. He struck at the root of the evil and would have no dealings with violators of the law, whether they were striking policemen or their backers.

Pussyfooting politicians in the Democratic party sought to carry water on both shoulders; they raised pettyfogging issues about the state executive's interference in purely local affairs. They sympathized with the men who violated their oaths while they were on paper, for "good government." The party was defeated overwhelmingly, as it deserved, because it exhibited cowardice in the face of the enemy of the United States.

The Democratic party in that state dodged another issue—the League of Nations question. The Republican state convention overruled Senator Lodge and stood squarely for the covenant without entangling reservation whereas, the Democratic party in its platform truckled to the hyphenates of Massachusetts.

The New England Conscience asserted itself on Tuesday and sent a thrill of patriotic pride throughout the nation.

No doubt this had much influence on the present coal strike, which in all likelihood will be called off by the close of the week.

Neither government, representing the people at large, nor the real leaders of labor wish to prolong the matter or to fight to a finish. We have too much "class consciousness" already.

There is no reason why the worker, be he manual or brain worker, be placed apart from his fellowmen, and there is no reason in a country like this why he should seek to remain away from the rest. For the time being, inoculated with foreign virus, he seeks a kind of martyrdom, but that will pass away. The claiming American atmosphere does not permit this unnatural condition to exist long. It would be an ill-day for the nation of the Marxian doctrine should prevail, that there are two classes in eternal antagonism.

The people instinctively declared against both the coal and the steel strike and they were and are willing to go the full limit to uphold the hand of the government but at the same time they do not press for the humiliating defeat of labor itself. Nothing is to be gained by insisting on it. The men have doubtless learned their lesson; they know now better than ever before the silent force of public sentiment; they have discovered beyond any questioning that without public support they cannot win a strike of magnitude involving the necessities of daily life. No matter how close may be the organization, how many its membership, how rich its treasury, it has to obey the public will. They will now come to their senses and accept arbitration, and the strike as a weapon may be considered as gone forever in nation wide labor troubles.

AS WAR MEMENTO

PUBLIC SQUARE OF ARRAS IS TO BE PRESERVED.

Just as War Left It, It Will Serve to Remind the World That Here the Marauding Huns Were Checked.

In the little place of Arras, where once stood the Hotel de Ville, with its belfry and its peal of bells, led by La Joyeuse It says that this place is to be preserved in its ruin as war has left it.

Other places will be rebuilt again, and will forget, but this little place will remain empty, and one day Arras will be more proud of that emptiness and of those few broken stones than are other towns of the most beautiful things that they possess.

For so Arras will remain always as it is to-day one of the rocks visible on which the great waters of invasion broke and surged and broke again, but could flow no farther. There they were held. There in the centre of Arras you come suddenly to-day on the dark line of their highest tide.

Elsewhere, across the open country, you come more gradually in the land of war, by roads where troops move by fields where are lines and lines of brown and white trenches, ready but never used; by empty villages, with here and there a house broken; and so at last into the great No Man's land of France, uninhabited, uninhabitable, where armies fought and fought again, until all is destroyed and men live a gypsy life by the roadside. But in Arras on turning a corner of one of the little streets and it is as if a window had opened suddenly and you looked out on war.

For three years one could only enter Arras from the west, by the road from Doullens through the Amiens gate or by the road from St Pol past Dead Man's corner where nightly the reliefs, coming up, were shelled Beside both these roads the trees stand, and the fields are tilled and there are woods across the hills You enter Arras to-day through a country unchanged by war. The change is not yet.

It is a silent town. Its houses stand, though scarcely one is quite whole. Their shutters are closed—their broken faces boarded up. The town is like a man that sleeps after long suffering.

So you pass through cobbled streets, very gray, clean, and silent streets, between those exhausted houses, going down the Rue St. Aubert and by the white hospital with its green vine leaves. Then you turn up other little streets, with their narrow sky above them, and come, very suddenly on an open lane with banks on either side, where nettles and coltsfoot and loosestrife grow. But this that looks like a country lane is cobbled, and its banks are heaps of brick.

It is as you enter this lane that you are conscious of something more unexpected and more awful than any ruined and broken thing—of an enormous emptiness in the middle of that town of tall houses and narrow streets.

When the years have passed and all the country to the east of Arras has long been made whole; when the trees grow again beside the Cambrai and the Bapaume roads and here are cottages once more in Beaudains and Remy and Vis-en-Artois, there will still be that sudden emptiness beneath the sky among the narrow streets of Arras.

Standing there, men will remember that once they could come into Arras only from the west. They will think of it then as of one of those towns, now far inland and surrounded by quick fields, which once were on the seashore. They will look at that gray ruin of the town hall as at the ruins of a great rock where once the storms beat.

The letter B is like some men,
As you can plainly see,
Because, although it is in debt,
It really shouldn't be.

Our Fried Cakes
Are fat, fresh, rich and tender
24c a doz.
Have a Dozen To-day
Chas. S. CLAPP

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The Real Liver Pills—A torpid liver means a disordered system, mental depression, lassitude and in the end, if care be not taken, a chronic state of debility. The very best medicine to arouse the liver to healthy action is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. They are compounded of purely vegetable substances of careful selection and no other pills have their fine qualities. They do not gripe or pain and they are agreeable to the most sensitive stomach.

Many an artist's model wouldn't make a model wife.