

CANADIANS ARE NOW LOOKED ON AS OLD SOLDIERS

Are Held In Higher Esteem Than the British Territorials.

A GOOD BATTERING RAM

Have Physical Condition To Go the Distance, and Have Experience.

An officer of the 15th Battalion, writing from France, says:

The Canadian contingent already regards itself completely as a veteran army. It has had its share of visits to the trenches, and is now resting on its oars, or rifles. Already new troops from England ask us questions about the trenches and we answer without a smile, as if we had been there for years. The men behave, in and out of the firing line, like old hands at the game. Usually new troops have shown their nervousness by firing indiscriminately and at random. A certain amount of sniping is, of course, kept up all the time. But a shot should not be fired unless there is some object to be aimed at. This state of affairs obtained at once when the Canadians came in. It cannot be said that they had all the nonchalance of a regular, but at least they kept their heads and learnt their duties.

Life Tends To Demoralize.

Trench life tends, ultimately, to demoralize discipline and physical condition. We have not spent enough time there for it to have had any effect upon us. It is the inactive life and the strain of being ever on the alert which tell. Our men were given improvements to do in the trench and work which was not necessary was found for them, in an endeavor to keep them in condition. Although the English troops showed great dash and staying power at Neuve Chapelle, it is generally thought that a long period of trench life is liable to make them slow. This gives color to the theory that we are going to be used for some of the dirty work in the field, I believe, in slightly higher esteem than the territorials. We have the physical condition to go the distance, and we have acquired most of the knowledge during our term in France. Canada is anxious for the glory and we will make an excellent battering-ram.

Paths of Glory and Gloom.

This reasoning may not be sound, but at least it is the line followed by many minds here. By the time you receive this letter probably you will know how affairs stand. At present the future is a gloom with many paths indistinctly visible. Unfortunately most of these paths which lead to glory go farther. If the soldiers in this war have been better fed and clothed than previously, they have had the converse disadvantage that casualties have been heavier and the percentage of killed more high.

DANES BELIEVE IN STRICT NEUTRALITY

People See Nothing To Be Gained by Entering Struggle.

Stockholm, April 17. — (Correspondence of the Associated Press.) — The Swedish author, Harold Waegner, who has been traveling through Denmark for the newspaper Aftenbladet, reports that "all the responsible Danes with whom I have met impress me as seriously with their belief that the only possible policy for Denmark is strict neutrality." He explains:

"The people of Denmark have always been happy and have lived in harmony. They are energetic and well educated, with a splendid culture. They no longer dream of avenging the year 1864."

"The most that could happen, they say to each other, would be to get Schleswig-Holstein back again. But taken as a whole, the land conquered by Germany in 1864 is now indisputably German. Kell, for instance, is now a thoroughly German town. Denmark's political interests do not incline towards any of the belligerents. She prefers to throw in her lot with the northern kingdoms."

MUST GIVE DETAILS IN M'CUTCHEON CASE

Attorney-General's Charges Too Vague—Trial Postponed.

Toronto, April 16. — Particulars of the charges of conspiracy against the four McCutcheon brothers and Marshall A. Cook will be furnished by the Attorney-General's department to the counsel for the accused. This was the decision of Chancellor Boyd in the assizes after hearing the motion of Mr. I. F. Hellmuth, who acted as spokesman for defense counsel, who included A. J. R. Snook, K. C., and Robt. McKay, K. C., yesterday. Just what particulars will be given by the Crown will not be determined until the motion is further argued before the presiding judge in the assizes next week.

Mr. Edward Barry, who appeared for the Crown, said that the particulars might be furnished when the special prosecutor who is to have charge of the case is appointed. Mr. Hellmuth declared that the indictment was too vague. It had been found by the jury at the last assizes court, but a copy had not been furnished to the accused until March. He charged the accused with conspiracy in the Dominion "and divers other places." Where were these places? and conspiring "with each other and others." Who were the others? asked the lawyer. Boyd: "It seems to be vague on the face of it."

The trial, said the chancellor, would probably not take place during the present sittings, and he thought fuller particulars should be given to prevent the Crown springing any "surprises."

Mr. Barry said that a similar application had been made to Mr. Justice Alderton, but he had contended that a judge sitting in single court had not the right to hear it.

M'BRIDE HOPES TO VISIT CANUCKS

British Columbia Premier Now In London—"Comforts" For Troops.

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.] London, April 17. — Sir Richard McBride, busy with provincial business here, hopes to spend some time with the troops from British Columbia at Shorncliffe. Sir Richard adds that the story that he was ill has caused him considerable annoyance.

This week building operations on the extension to the Duchess of Cornwall's Canadian Hospital at Cliveden were begun, whereby the present accommodation will be increased to five hundred. Colonel Ryerson has paid visits to the hospital, and also inspected the whole Canadian Red Cross stores, etc., in various parts of the district. He hopes to go to France shortly.

We are asked to mention again that wooden comforts are no longer needed by the troops, as these are still being received from Canadian friends.

The latest consignments of comforts to Canadians this week included insect powder, footballs, chewing gum, toothbrushes, boot laces. A complete list of the various goods sent would be instructive, as showing what goes for "comfort" in present-day warfare. Writing paper and envelopes are most eagerly sought.

Friends of Canadians still in England are continuing to provide concerts and cinema shows at Shorncliffe and Canterbury.

DEATH OF GALT GIRL.

GALT, April 16. — Miss Florence Rigby died at the hospital this morning after only four days' illness. Miss Rigby was born in Hamilton, but had lived in Galt for fourteen years. Besides her mother, three brothers survive: Percy and Fred at home, and Andrew, in Strathroy. The funeral

STANBURY-HARDY.

EXETER, April 16. — The marriage took place in Toronto on Wednesday of J. T. Stanbury, R.A., and Miss E. J. Hardy, of the Methodist Deaconess Training School.

Mr. Stanbury is a barrister in Exeter and Miss Hardy is a former Exeter girl. They will reside in Exeter.

FATALISTIC CREED COMMON IN ARMY

Soldiers Believe They Must Fulfill Destiny Set For Them.

IT BRINGS TRANQUILITY

Incidents Seem To Show Some Are Immune From Bullets.

Paris, April 16. — (Correspondence of the Associated Press.) — "Many of our soldiers and officers," says an officer who has been at the front since the beginning of the war, "have faith in a mysterious power analogous to antique fatalism which disposes of our sort. Those that it favors we say are 'in luck.' The greatest imprudence does not affect their invulnerability. Others seem fated to sacrifice, if they escape from a pitched battle, a spent ball or a fragment of shell will get them the following day, miles behind the trenches, while they are in apparent security."

"This instinctive belief brings a certain tranquility, not only to those who think that they are 'in luck,' but to those also who are in doubt whether they possess a lucky star. 'No one escapes his fate,' they say. 'If one is slated for death, what's the good of taking precautions; the bullet that's intended for me will find me.'"

"Certain cases seem to bear out this superstition. One of them was related by an officer of the general staff, tall, cool, almost as phlegmatic as an Englishman behind his eye-glasses, and so careful to exaggerate nothing that seems to contemplate the most tragic events with the wrong and of his espionage."

Could Not Get Killed.

"I ought to have been killed a hundred times," he told me. "At the moment of the general mobilization I was in the staff of the general division, to whom I was personally attached. I treated me somewhat as his personal aide-de-camp. I went everywhere with him. A few days after the declaration of war he was informed of the death of his wife, whom I knew he adored. He concealed his pain, but I understand at once that the blow had mortally crushed him, and that he had made up his mind to get himself killed. He took me with him where the bullets were thickest. The division was on the eastern frontier, and alongside the storms of shrapnel that burst above our heads the German bombardments of today are small incidents. Every other day we went to the first line, and while the men lying round us fired at the Germans we remained erect to encourage them."

"One afternoon we had passed four hours under the enemy's shells. From time to time I said to myself, 'In ten minutes or even in five minutes perhaps it'll be my turn.' But we were neither of us touched. Another day, after a very violent engagement in which we had been obliged to give way, on our batteries remained stuck between the two armies. I proposed to reconnoitre the position to see if it was possible to bring it back. I intended to go along and see it to come back quickly. But the general declared he would go along. It was vain to remark that it was not his place, he replied with some feeling that he had no orders to receive from me."

Bullets Did Not Want Them.

"Everything went well, and we reached the position of the battery without any trouble. There remained only two men, a major and a private soldier, guarding the battery, firing with all their energy to make the enemy believe that the position was still occupied in force. We succeeded in getting the pieces into shape and dragging them out of danger, but instead of following the direct route toward our lines, the general proposed that we make a little detour, 'in order,' he said, 'that the men may not have the impression that we are retreating.' We followed a route on the side of a hill, which during several hundred yards passed over a space of absolutely unbroken ground between the two firing lines. If I had been alone I should have covered that space at double-quick. The general, though, declared that a precipitation would have produced a walk that we crossed this exposed ground, offering ourselves as targets to the German infantry."

"The balls whistled around us incessantly—so thickly that the leaves on the trees along the route fell as in an autumn storm. Neither of us received a scratch, neither were our horses touched. I asked the general if he did not think it marvellous that we should have passed unscathed through this storm of bullets. He shook his head sadly and said: 'The bullets don't seem to want me.' As for me, since that trial there is nothing that surprises me. I sincerely believe I'm 'in luck,' and am quite sure that the Germans will never get me."

FARMERS ARE HOLDING LESS WHEAT THAN USUAL

OTTAWA, April 16. — A press bulletin issued today by the census and statistics office gives the results of the usual inquiry as to the stocks of grain and other crops remaining in the hands of farmers on March 31, and the proportion of the crops harvested in the previous year, which turned out to be of merchantable quality.

The returns received from crop-reporting correspondents show that of the total estimated yield of wheat in 1914, twelve and one-half per cent, or 20,247,000 bushels, remained in farmers' hands at the end of March. At the rate of 14 bushels per acre the quantity should allow of the sowing this spring of about 11,570,000 acres, or 1,522,000 acres more than were sown in the spring of 1914, independently of the quantity of wheat stored in elevators which may be returned to farmers for seeding purposes.

The quantity of wheat remaining in the hands of farmers is, however, smaller than in any previous year on record, the light crop and the high price being together responsible for the result. In 1914 the quantity of wheat estimated to be in farmers' hands at March 31 was 28,253,000 bushels, or sixteen and one-half per cent of the large harvest of 1913; in 1913 at March 31 the proportion was twenty-two per cent, or 26,234,000 bushels, and at March 31, 1912, it was 27 per cent, or 22,188,000 bushels.

WANT IDEAS FOR TORONTO JAIL.

MONTREAL, April 16. — Mayor Church and six members of the Toronto city council are in Montreal today and this afternoon made an inspection of the Bordeaux jail. The object of their visit is to look into the prison system adopted in this province with the object of picking up information which may be of service to them in the establishment of a municipal prison in Toronto.

RATES REDUCED ON SEAMEN'S INSURANCE DESPITE SUBMARINES

LONDON, April 16. — 9 p.m. — Despite the German submarine warfare against British merchant ships, the first month's experience of the board of officers and seamen of the mercantile marine against war risk has proved so satisfactory, it is announced, that it has been decided to make a fifty per cent reduction in the rates of the premiums charged. It is stated that all six months' policies already issued will remain valid for one year.

PARSON-FRAYNE.

EXETER, April 16. — The marriage took place Wednesday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. James Frayne, of their only daughter, Miss M. J. Frayne, to Roy Parson, Miss Frayne will be much missed in the church, she having been a member of James Street Methodist Church choir, a teacher in the Sunday school, also pianist of the school. They reside on the groom's farm, North Exeter.

A. M. C. PROMOTIONS

[Special Cable to The Advertiser.] London, April 17. — The following promotions have been gazetted in the Canadian Army Medical Corps: Lieutenant to temporary colonel, M. McLaren, J. W. Bridges, G. L. Foster; Major to temporary lieutenant-colonel, Major F. Wyde, Brevet Lt.-Col. P. L. Vaux, Major S. H. MacKee; captains to be temporary majors, A. C. Rankin, E. M. Vasey, C. H. Morris, J. L. Duval, H. C. Niblett, A. M. Forbes, H. F. Mundree.

GOVERNMENT TO HELP EDUCATE WOUNDED

[Canadian Press.]

Paris, April 17. — Louis J. Malvy, minister of the interior, yesterday received the senators and deputies from Bordeaux. The minister told them that the Government would support actively the initiative taken at Bordeaux to create large schools to educate mutilated soldiers in the war in professions and handicrafts, so that they will be able to make their living.

THREE CHILDREN BURNED

In New York Train—Young Daughter Saves Father.

[Canadian Press.] New York, April 17. — Word was received today that three children of Henry Thorpe, a lumber dealer, were burned to death yesterday in a fire which destroyed the Thorpe home at Wesley Chappel, Rockland County. The victims were Ethel, 6; Charles, 4, and Mildred, 2 years old. Mr. Thorpe was seriously burned in an attempt to save the children, but was rescued by his daughter Margaret, 7 years old. The origin of the fire is unknown.

TWO OTHERS BURNED.

Rapid City, Man., April 17. — The two youngest children of Stanley Fuller, a farmer near here, were burned to death in a fire which completely destroyed the Fuller residence. The blaze started during the temporary absence of the other members of the family.

DIES OF BLOOD-POISONING.

[Special to The Advertiser.] INGERISOL, April 16. — The death of Mrs. Polre, wife of Achille Poire, occurred at Dickson's Corners from blood-poisoning after a brief illness. A slight wound on her hand was infected, and her condition soon became alarming. She was in her 47th year and highly esteemed by many.

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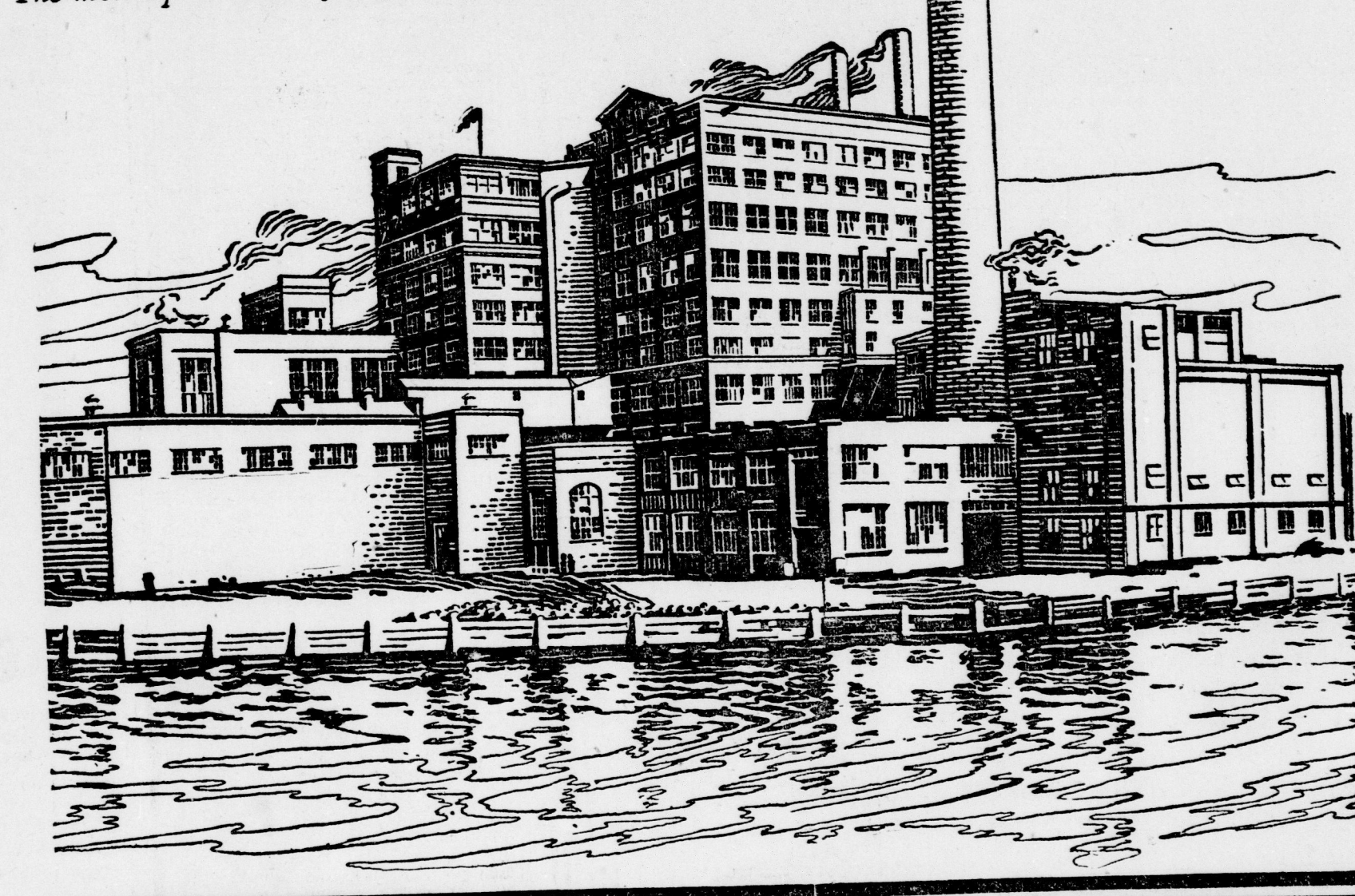
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ected, and her condition soon be- friends in the district. Interment will come alarming. She was in her 47th be made in the Ingersoll rural cemetery and highly esteemed by many tery.

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